SPECIAL Harry Potter ISSUE!

MAD

#418 DECEMBER 2001 $5.99 CHEAP!
UNITED STATES

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MAD

December 2001 NUMBER 412

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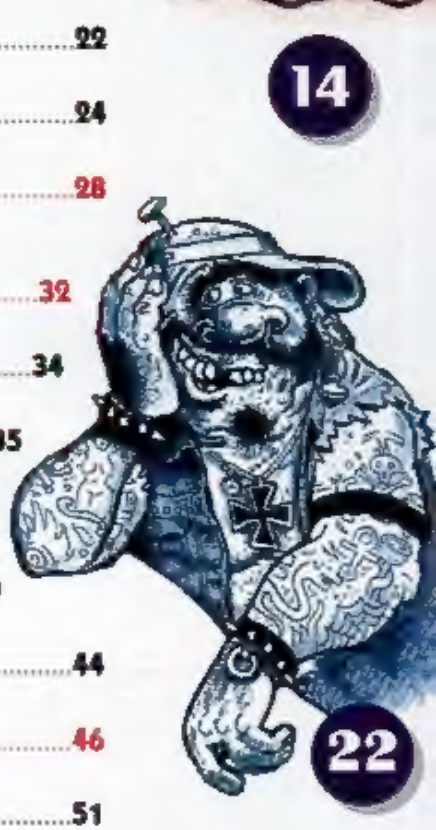

"It's not the work that keeps most people from doing volunteer work — it's the pay!"

FRONT COVER ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

FRONT COVER WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Dec. 5, 1996
Bill Clinton bribes self to sleep in Lincoln Bedroom.

Dec. 8, 1971
Blue Cross capitulates, agrees to cover chronic chafing for nudist policyholders.

Dec. 10, 1947
A depressed John Wilkes Booth IV shoots up a Lincoln Continental.

Dec. 21, 1998
Anne Heche attempts to enroll in Berlitz to become more fluent in "Alien."

Dec. 24, 1952
Mrs. Claus and next door neighbor begin annual "same time, next year" tryst.

October 2001

Dear Readers:

Like all Americans, we at MAD were saddened by the recent events at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. We express our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who were lost. We would also like to thank the many readers who called, faxed or emailed us concerning the MAD staff's safety. Thankfully, we're okay.

Like many of the late night comedy shows, we have struggled with the question of what humor is appropriate in times of national grieving. Because we work on issues several months in advance, some articles written and scheduled prior to September 11 may now be deemed unimportant or even inappropriate. We have done our best to remove or re-edit this material. But with passions running so high, some may find offense in places where many others may not.

Next month, we will be presenting the MAD 20 — our annual roundup of the 20 Dumbest People, Events and Things of the past year. There will be no mention of the World Trade Center attack. To include it would be an unforgivable trivialization of the tragic event.

Do not misread this letter, however, as MAD will not be abandoning its editorial mission of pointing out the extremes, missteps and absurdities in life. In 2002, our 50th year of publication, we will continue to poke holes in all deserving areas of society, including our elected officials, their policies, the media and more.

MAD-ly,
The Editors

I was very sad to hear about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and I thought of the well-known producers of MAD first. I hope all are doing good, and thanks MAD for the many years of comedic literature that has been passed down in my family. If it were up to me, all Americans would have to read MAD because it is such a good magazine.

Zeb Williams
Candler, NC

The tragedy of September 11th was horrible, but we need to laugh and smile again. Hoping all is well with you and yours.

Larry and Darlene Lupton
Albuquerque, NM

I've been a MAD reader for years, so I feel compelled to write after the events of September 11th, 2001, a date I and the world will never forget, especially New Yorkers. I live in Canada, am from England and what I saw on TV sickened me beyond words. I felt anger and rage. Forget protocol, forget what the United Nations may think, strike hard and swift.

Mark Frere
Winnipeg, Canada

I know this is not the place to send this letter, but I just had to let someone in New York know how we feel. All of us here in Tennessee watched with the rest of the world the horror that took place on Tuesday, September 11th. I cannot imagine how you all are managing with everything that is going on that has turned your beautiful city into a nightmare. Our hearts are aching with you. We cry at odd moments and although we are trying to help, we still feel helpless. We have blood drives, take up donations for the Red Cross and whatever else we can. On Friday, a ten-year-old boy in my neighborhood went door to door and gave candles out in memory of those who are lost. My next door neighbor runs a small company and has donated a truck and trailer that is being loaded with donated supplies today and should be on the way to you tomorrow. A few families here have relatives who were in that Tower and they are on their own tragic searches. I don't know why I am sending you this really, maybe it's because I have read your magazine since I was a kid and I feel somehow like I know you. Or maybe it's just that I wanted you to know how we are hurting for you and with you. Please know that you are in our prayers, our hearts are heavy with your sorrows and we here in the Volunteer State are doing everything we can to help. Stay strong. God bless you.

Dona McAlister
Knoxville, Tennessee

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Nick Meglin & John Ficarra
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the usual gang of idiots

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MAD #413
ON SALE
DECEMBER 18!

MAD XL#13
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FAX MAD AT
(212) 506-4848!

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I have a dumb wish for your *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*. I would like to see a sports satire on Major League Lacrosse in an upcoming issue. Many of my friends are MLL fans and I'd like to see what you come up with.

Alex Flannery
Glen Ridge, NJ

Flan — Bingo! You have certainly fulfilled a main requirement in making a request to the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*, namely that the wish be dumb! It is therefore with exceptional regret that we must decline to fulfill your wish of seeing a "sports satire on Major League Lacrosse in an upcoming issue." Our reason is simple, we know nothing at all about the sport, nor does anyone we know know anything about the sport. That's 'cause we don't hang out with LOSERS! Thanks for writing to the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*! —Ed.

LETTER FROM A SPOIL SPORT

In issue #408, you listed "MAD's 50 Worst Things About Sports" and you dedicated seven pages to the crack-snorting, over-paid felons who play basketball, baseball and hockey. How about you use your rag to mention the sport of professional Bass fishing tournaments? It's a lot more popular than soccer ever will be and you mentioned them. The B.A.S.S. master circuit attracts millions of viewers, requires actual skill and often pays out over $100,000 to the winners of the major tournaments. For Gods sake, one of the tournaments was broadcast on primetime FOX!

Matt Somma
Williamsburg, VA

Matty — Bass fishing? Bass fishing? We'd rather devote seven pages to Major League Lacrosse! Face it, let's wake up and smell the chum here! How much skill does it take to push the little red button on Big Mouth Billy Bass and hear "Don't Worry, Be Happy" over and over and over again? Good luck with the lures! —Ed.

P.S. Here's something we always wanted to know — does that Pocket Fisherman gizmo really work?

THE FLESH PRINTS

As a faithful reader of MAD I decided it was my duty to point out an error which could cause chaos and pandemonium if it isn't cited now. In issue #409, in the "Maimed Flesh" article, the first place winner of Most Stretched Bosom in the male division has a bowling ball attached to his bosom. For some reason, the brilliant and gifted staff of this wonderful magazine simply miswrote and said this was a bowling pin.

Glenn Schieck
Rochester, NY

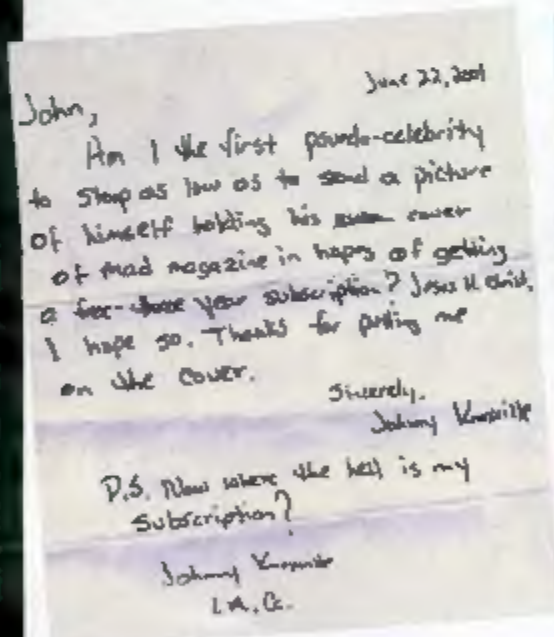
Glenn — Eagle eye observation. The brilliant and gifted staff member in question is writer Scott Maiko. We've been having a lot of trouble with Scott lately. Yours wasn't the first letter we received regarding Scott's performance. A meeting was held of the highest echelons of the MAD organization to discuss Scott and this whole bowling ball debacle and whether Scott should be fired. Ultimately deciding Scott would end up in the gutters, the medical board decided that Scott be spared. Gotta go — I have an appointment to get some new ink! —Ed.

D'LO DOWN

I am writing this letter to reply to your Letters Page of issue #409 and in particular the one from Gary Orton. Just who in the blue hell is he to question The Great One. I never said D'Lo Brown never had ho escorts, but it was The Godfather who always had the hos as escorts. For the record, D'Lo Brown only picked up the pimping storyline to try and save his career in the World Wrestling Federation. Gary should stop visiting his orthodontist and start making more trips to his optometrist because his eyes are very bad. That is my story and I am sticking by it, if you smell what Eugene is cooking!

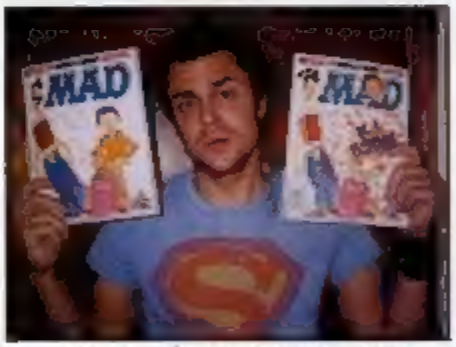
Eugene Lumley
Bronx, NY

Blue Gene — Well, well, well, meow! Nothing we like more than a petty little squabble on the Letters Page and about something important, too — a three-year-old wrestling storyline! Well, Gary O, it's your turn to respond to this simmering D'Lo/pimp/ho controversy. We just hope you have an orthodontist appointment and see this letter! —Hardcore Ed.


June 22, 2001
John,
Am I the first pseudo-celebrity to stoop as low as to send a picture of himself holding his own cover of mad magazine in hopes of getting a free three year subscription? Jesus H. Christ, I hope so. Thanks for putting me on the cover.
Sincerely,
Johnny Knoxville
P.S. Now where the hell is my subscription?
Johnny Knoxville
L.A., Ca.

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOXVILLE

Jackass Boy — Yes, you *are* the first pseudo-celebrity (some might say the cheapest!) to stoop so low as to send in your own picture to wrangle a free subscription. But hey, a deal is a deal regardless how ill conceived! A three-year subscription is on its way to the Knoxville residence!



Jackass star Johnny Knoxville and MAD #407

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Dorothy Crouch, Associate Publisher — September 17, 2001

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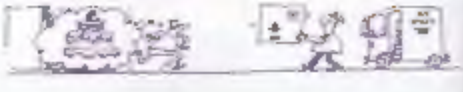


Real
Ad

J.K. Rowling wrote a book that changed the way kids read.
By the second, Barnes and Noble faced a huge stampede.
Hollywood took notice, as their eyes lit up with greed.
"Grab the rights," screamed agents, "There's no way this won't succeed!"
At last, the movie's in the can, and fans can't wait to peek,
So they can jump online and post a withering critique.
For every detail overlooked, they'll howl and curse and shriek.
Well, we don't care. We got it wrong. Now shut your pie-holes, geeks!

Harry

I'm **Harry Plodder**, **boy wizard**, and my story is **unique!** You'll see me **slowly discover** the **ability** that I always had **hidden inside!** Just like the young characters in ***Toy Story***, ***Terminator***, ***The Sixth Sense***, ***The Matrix***, ***The Lion King***, ***Ghost*** and every single ***Star Wars*****!** What makes **my** character **unique?** I have an **owl!**

I'm the most **powerful wizard** in the **world!** As soon as I picked the weekend to **open our movie**, look at how **fast** I made every other **chickenspit movie company** in **Hollywood disappear!** Poof!

I'm **Runt Queasy**, wannabe **wizard** and fulltime **whiner!** Usually, the "**sidekick**" gets all the **funny lines**, but the **hero** gets the **girl!** But in **this** movie, there **aren't** any **funny lines**, and **nobody** gets **anybody!** Why do you think I spend **so much time** up in my **dorm room** dressing my **pet rat** in **sexy outfits?**

Herwhiny Grungy here! Me and Runt add a little "**masculine-feminine**" **dynamic!** Except I bring the **masculine**, and **he's** in charge of **feminine!** All three of us are making our **film debuts!** The **producers** entrusted their blockbuster to **newcomers** because we have a **youthful freshness**, we don't come with "**past role**" **baggage**...and they don't have to **pay us squat!**

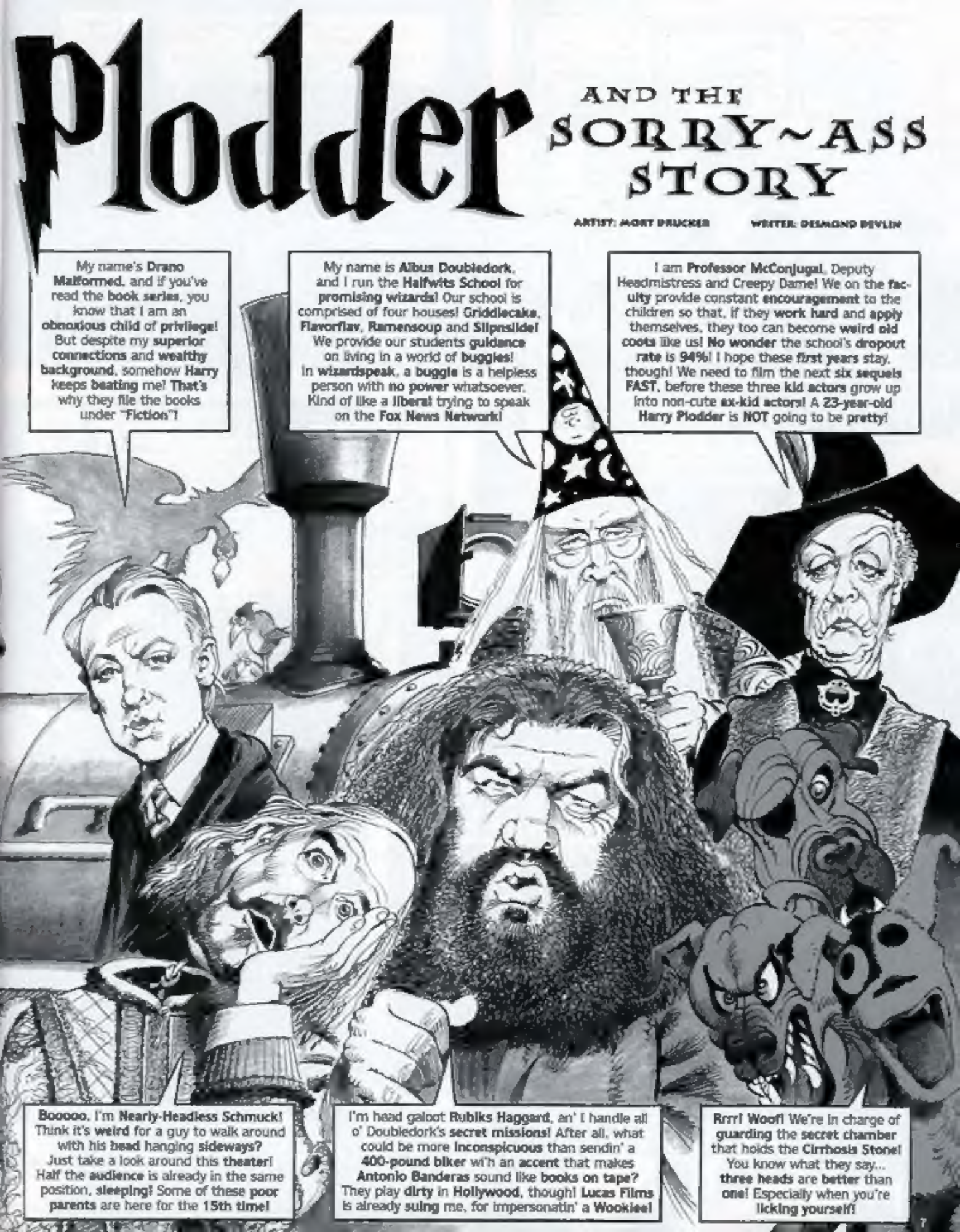
I, **Severely Snapped**, am here to provide a **classically British tone** with my **withering sarcasm!** Unfortunately, when it comes to **wit**, my **comedic idols** are the **Spice Girls!**

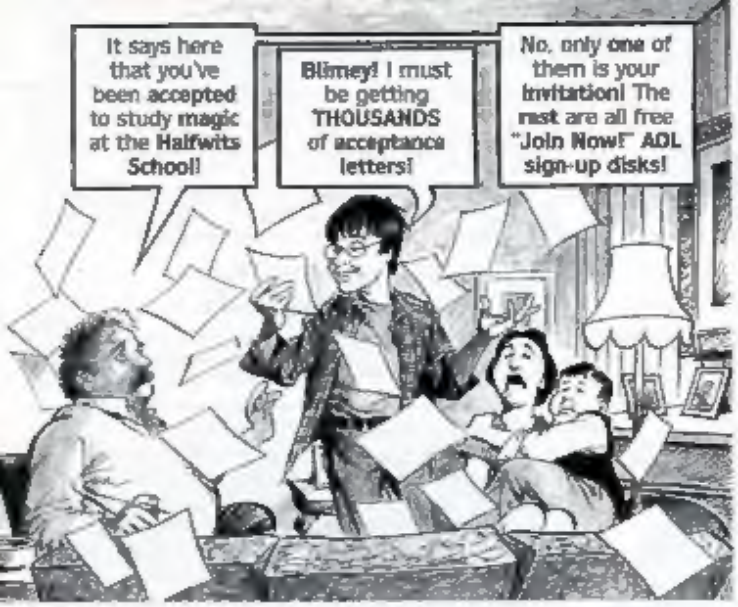
I am **Druckermort** — **pure evil!** I killed Plodder's **parents** but **failed** to kill the **boy!** To **protect** him, **Doubledork** inexplicably sent **Harry** to live for **12 years** with the **Doodlys** — a family of powerless **buggles** who don't care if he **lives** or **dies!** Is it just me or is **Doubledork's** wizard hat on **too tight?**

Professor Qwerty here! Even though **Prof. Snapped** acts **scary** and **evil**, the **bad guy** is secretly **ME, ME, ME!** This should come as a shocking **surprise twist** to anyone who **didn't read** the **first book**...or in other words, all **three** of you out there!

Plodder AND THE SORRY~ASS STORY

ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN


My name's **Drano Malformed**, and if you've read the **book series**, you know that I am an **obnoxious child** of **privilege**! But despite my **superior connections** and **wealthy background**, somehow **Harry** keeps **beating** me! That's why they file the books under "**Fiction**"!
My name is **Albus Doubledork**, and I run the **Halfwits School** for **promising wizards**! Our school is comprised of four houses! **Griddlecake**, **Flavorflav**, **Ramensoup** and **Slipnslide**! We provide our students **guidance** on living in a world of **buggies**! In **wizardspeak**, a **buggie** is a helpless person with **no power** whatsoever. Kind of like a **liberal** trying to speak on the **Fox News Network**!
I am **Professor McConjugal**, Deputy Headmistress and Creepy Dame! We on the **faculty** provide constant **encouragement** to the children so that, if they **work hard** and **apply** themselves, they too can become **weird old coots** like us! **No wonder** the school's **dropout rate** is **94%**! I hope these **first years** stay, though! We need to film the next six **sequels FAST**, before these three **kid actors** grow up into non-cute **ex-kid actors**! A **23-year-old Harry Plodder** is **NOT** going to be **pretty**!
Booooo. I'm **Nearly-Headless Schmuck**! Think it's **weird** for a guy to walk around with his **head** hanging **sideways**? Just take a look around this **theater**! Half the **audience** is already in the same position, **sleeping**! Some of these **poor parents** are here for the **15th time**!
I'm head galoot **Rubiks Haggard**, an' I handle all o' Doubledork's **secret missions**! After all, what could be more **inconspicuous** than sendin' a **400-pound biker** wi'h an **accent** that makes **Antonio Banderas** sound like **books on tape**? They play **dirty** in **Hollywood**, though! **Lucas Films** is already **suing** me, for impersonatin' a **Wookiee**!
Rrrr! Woof! We're in charge of **guarding** the **secret chamber** that holds the **Cirrhosis Stone**! You know what they say... **three heads** are **better** than **one**! Especially when you're **licking yourself**!

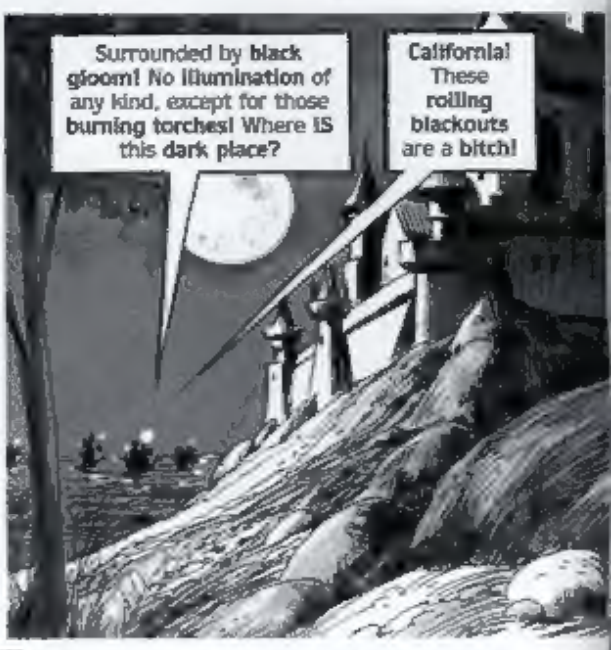

It says here that you've been accepted to study magic at the Halfwits School!
Blimey! I must be getting THOUSANDS of acceptance letters!
No, only one of them is your invitation! The rest are all free "Join Now!" AOL sign-up disks!

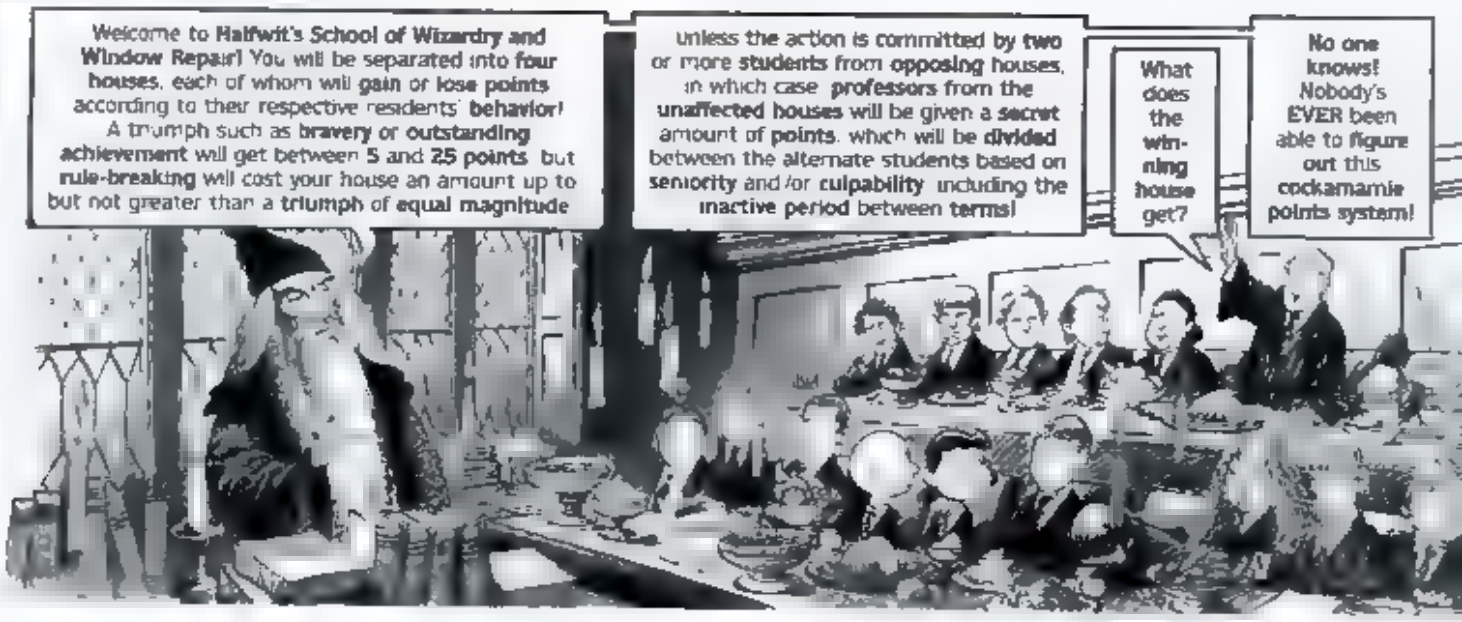
Eek! That crazed behemoth smashes in our door, terrorizes our family, and orders us around in some weirdo voice! I've never experienced anything this frightening!
I have! I used to date Mike Tyson!
YIKES!

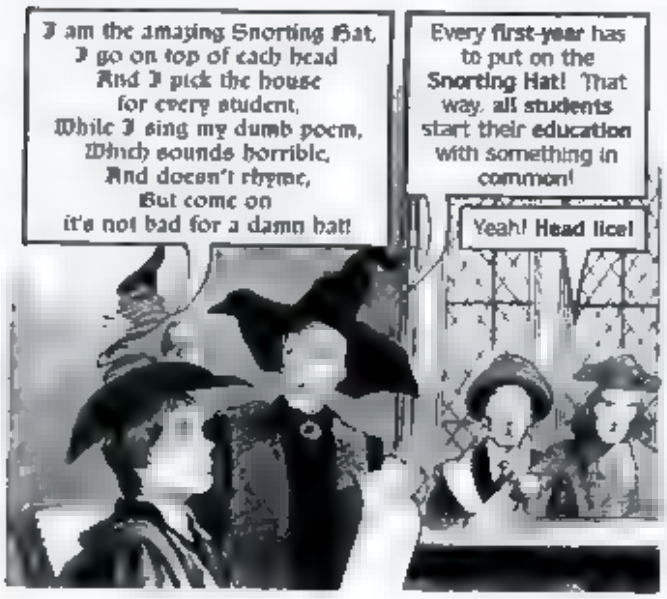
Now that yer in London, 'Arry, yeh has to get yer money! Jus' watch out for that elf there! He's still a little grumbly 'bout spendin' 50 million bucks just to finish third in th' 1992 election!
Ferret

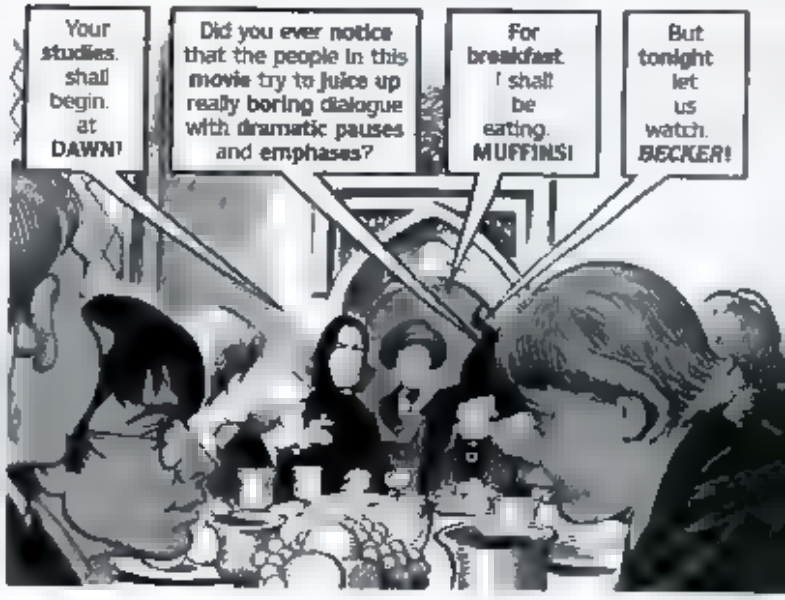
Actually, we're all a little ticked off around here!
What have you got to be angry about?
Look at me! I'm a 90-year-old elf! I haven't worked since The Wizard of Oz! Getting regular acting jobs is tough when you're as short as me!
I don't know... Tom Cruise does real well!

This is Diatone Alley, the invisible street where yez can buy yer school supplies!
Wild! All around us are wraiths and specters and gargoyles! And just look at this strange money! It's got pictures of horrible, grotesque monsters in six different colors!
Actually, that's just regular British currency! And them's th' Royal Family!
NIKE
ALE

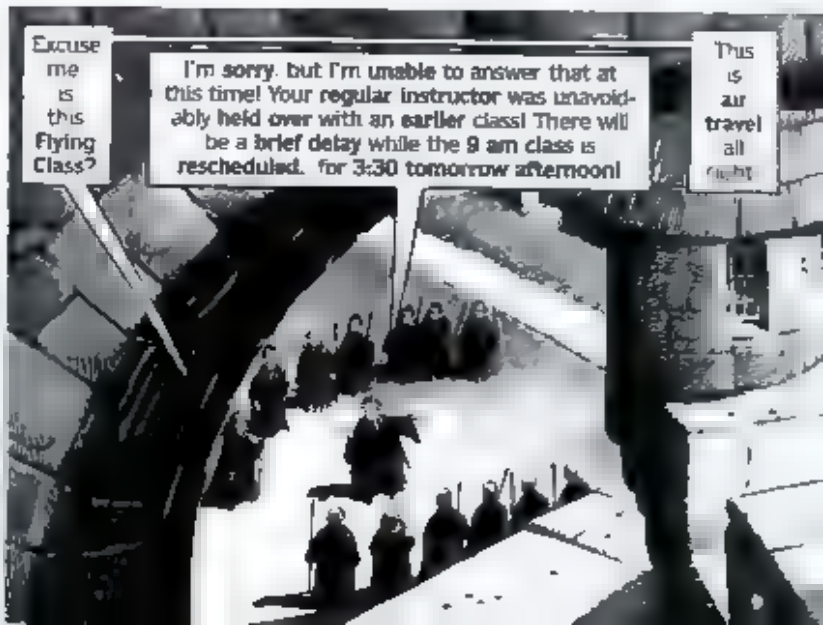

Surrounded by black gloom! No illumination of any kind, except for those burning torches! Where IS this dark place?
California! These rolling blackouts are a bitch!


Welcome to Halfwit's School of Wizardry and Window Repair! You will be separated into four houses, each of whom will gain or lose points according to their respective residents' behavior! A triumph such as bravery or outstanding achievement will get between 5 and 25 points, but rule-breaking will cost your house an amount up to but not greater than a triumph of equal magnitude
Unless the action is committed by two or more students from opposing houses, in which case professors from the unaffected houses will be given a secret amount of points, which will be divided between the alternate students based on seniority and/or culpability, including the inactive period between terms!
What does the winning house get?
No one knows! Nobody's EVER been able to figure out this cockamamie points system!


I am the amazing Snorting Hat,
I go on top of each head
And I pick the house
for every student,
While I sing my dumb poem,
Which sounds horrible,
And doesn't rhyme,
But come on
it's not bad for a damn hat!
Every first-year has to put on the Snorting Hat! That way, all students start their education with something in common!
Yeah! Head lice!

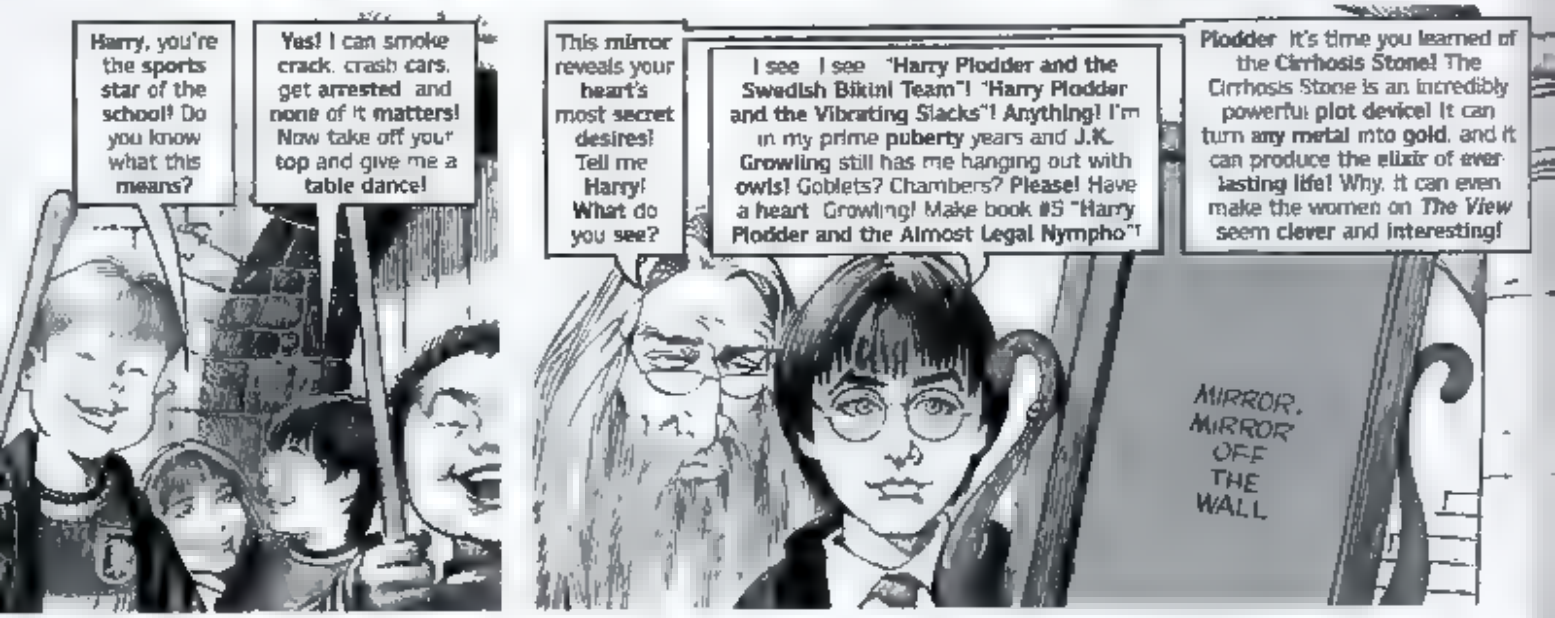

Your studies shall begin at DAWN!
Did you ever notice that the people in this movie try to juice up really boring dialogue with dramatic pauses and emphases?
For breakfast I shall be eating MUFFINS!
But tonight let us watch BECKER!

Arry, say hello t yer very own owl! From 10 am to 11 30 e helps you with yer spells! An from 4 pm to 5 pm, e helps yeh send letters!
What happens from 11.30 to 4 in the afternoon?
Yeh'll be scraping owl poop off every flat surface in here! Filthy beast!


Excuse me is this Flying Class?
I'm sorry, but I'm unable to answer that at this time! Your regular instructor was unavoidably held over with an earlier class! There will be a brief delay while the 9 am class is rescheduled, for 3:30 tomorrow afternoon!
Thus is air travel all right

Well, well, it seems we have a celebrity! We haven't had this sort of magical star power since Siegfried made something disappear inside Roy!
Ugh! Is there anybody who knows what it's like attending a school where prying eyes are watching your every move?
Yes! Jenna Bush!
What's the matter kiddies? Afraid of a little three-headed dog?
What scares me is he's not fixed! And it's NOT just his head that comes in triplicate!
We're never going to get past that dog, into the chamber and grab the Cirrhosis Stone! But that's just what the bad guy's going to do! Who do you suspect, Harry?
Suspect? There are only four Professors in the damn movie! Scrappy-Doo could crack this feeble mystery!

We're here to save you, Herwhiny! We're huh? How'd they get here?
Ever since *Shrek* bumped Disney down to the #2 animation company, those guys despise all trolls!
It must be difficult, teaching the children how to play Squamish!
Not really! When you think about it, the brooms do all the work! The worst part about coaching Squamish is getting a cooler of bat eyeballs and lizard blood dumped over my head when we win.


Harry, you're the sports star of the school! Do you know what this means?
Yes! I can smoke crack, crash cars, get arrested and none of it matters! Now take off your top and give me a table dance!
This mirror reveals your heart's most secret desires! Tell me Harry! What do you see?
I see I see "Harry Plodder and the Swedish Bikini Team"! "Harry Plodder and the Vibrating Slacks"! Anything! I'm in my prime puberty years and J.K. Growling still has me hanging out with owls! Goblets? Chambers? Please! Have a heart Growling! Make book #5 "Harry Plodder and the Almost Legal Nympho"!
Plodder It's time you learned of the Cirrhosis Stone! The Cirrhosis Stone is an incredibly powerful plot device! It can turn any metal into gold, and it can produce the elixir of everlasting life! Why, it can even make the women on *The View* seem clever and interesting!
MIRROR, MIRROR OFF THE WALL

Haggard, Headmaster Doubledork, I have much to learn! Is there anything you two CAN'T do?
Yes. Shave!
I don't know about you, but I'm scared. Mostly because the way this movie's grinding along, the plot's actually being livened up by a game of Chess!
I know how to win! You've got to let the white queen knock me out!
Runt, we can't!
Do it! It's the only way to defeat Druckermort! And besides, it'll be the first and probably last time I ever get touched by a woman!
PAWN
BISHOP
KING
Two of these vessels contain safe elixirs! Two contain poison! And three contain the deep-down satisfying flavor of Diet Coke! Mm-mmm! Just for the thrill of it, just for the chill of it, just for the taste of it. Diet Coke!
Is it me, or is "product placement" in movies getting out of hand?
Professor Qwerty! It's you, and the evil Druckermort! He's leeching off your host body, just like Liz Smith! But, how could there be a face on the back of a person's head??
If her plastic surgeon yanks Joan Rivers' skin up any tighter, we'll find out!
I've already got the turban, and now I've got an extra face! I could be the perfect New York City cab driver! But tell me, Druckermort, and be honest! From back there, does my butt look big to you?
For bravery, I award an extra 100 points to Harry Plodder! For cunning, another 100 to Harry Plodder! And because his name is the freakin' TITLE of this movie, 3,000 more points to Harry Plodder! Harry Plodder's house wins!
Hey! How can Doubledork just make up brand new totals after the winner has already been decided?
Easy! He used to be on the Board of Elections in Palm Beach, Florida!
All's well that ends well, Harry! You're alive! And the Cirrhosis Stone has been destroyed!
Destroyed the Stone? Thanks, genius! If you were going to destroy the thing all along, couldn't you have destroyed it on Page Three? You know, BEFORE Qwerty and Druckermort kicked my butt into the hospital? Oy! Something tells me the next six Harry Plodder movies are all gonna be downhill from here!

The MAD Etiquette Guide for Modern WORKPLACE ROMANCES

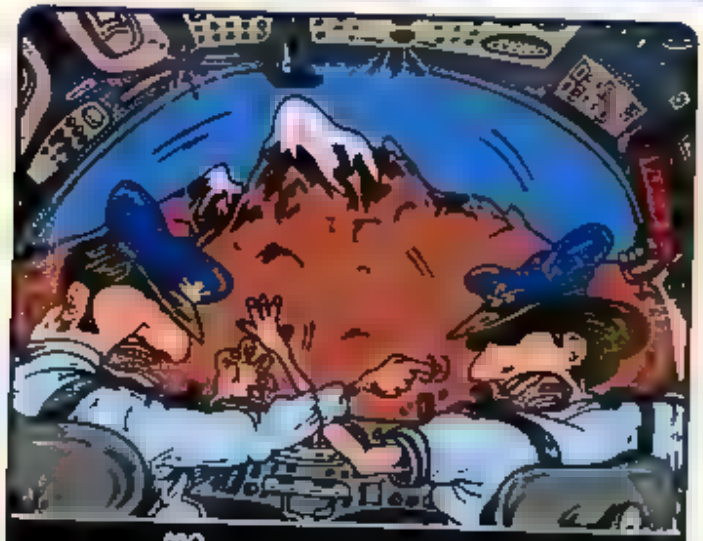
Your job and your love life — after a Chalupa, they're the two greatest sources of heartache! For the brave souls who dare to combine them and seek a relationship on the job, the smallest faux pas can lead to disaster. To help those men and women seeking part-time passion or a full-time fling, we present

The Gentleman should always wipe off the copy machine glass for the lady after xeroxing his own bare buttocks (and prior to her doing so)!
After having a torrid broom closet liaison with a co-worker you met at the launch party for your new dot com company...
...it's impolite to ignore them at the going-out-of-business party the following week!
IT WAS A BLAST while it lasted
77
53
Be sensitive to the possibility that some may not be as comfortable as you about revealing your relationship with a fellow co-worker!

ARTIST: KEVIN POPE

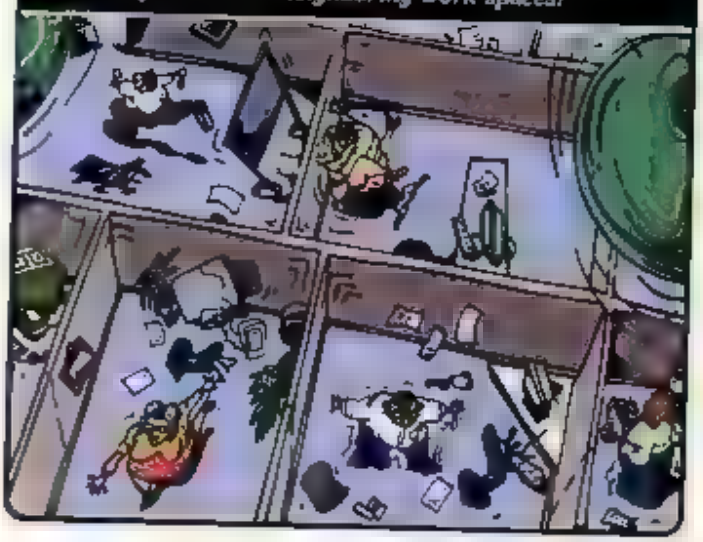
WRITER: MIKE SNIDER

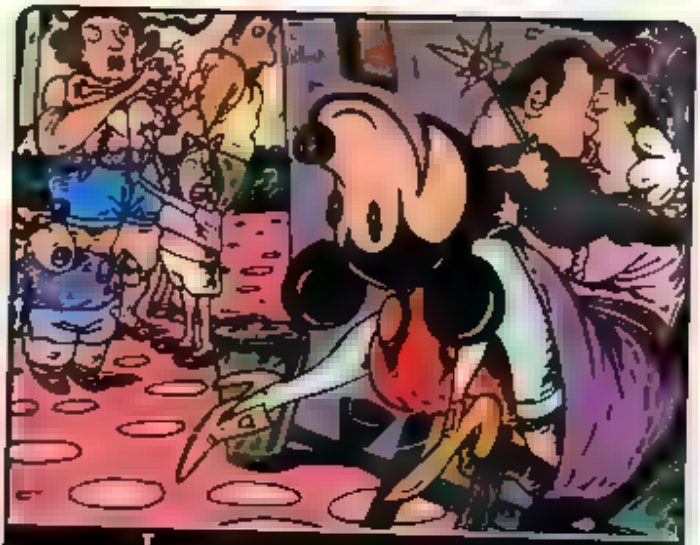
Although delivering a romantic message in an unusual job-related way may be cute and charming — it can also be highly inappropriate and unprofessional!



While arguments are inevitable in any relationship, don't let your on-the-job spats interfere with your duties!

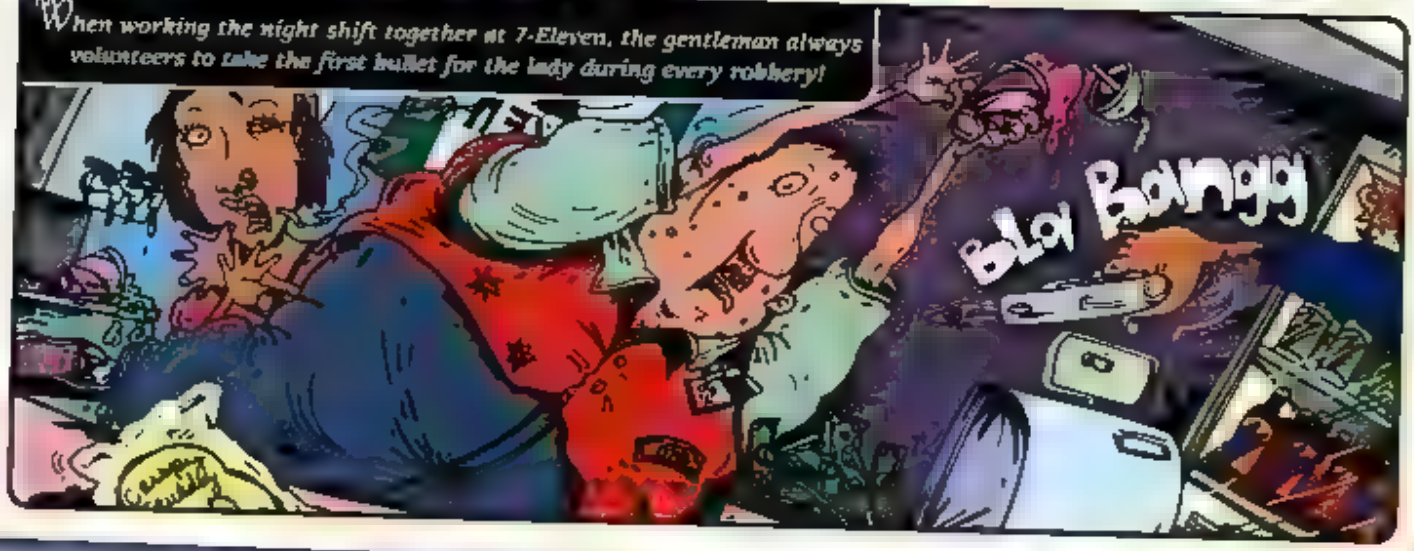
Whilst engaging in an amorous liaison on the job, the thoughtful couple shows consideration for those in neighboring work spaces!





If you and your partner both occupy high-profile positions at your company, it's especially important for you to be discreet!

When working the night shift together at 7-Eleven, the gentleman always volunteers to take the first bullet for the lady during every robbery!

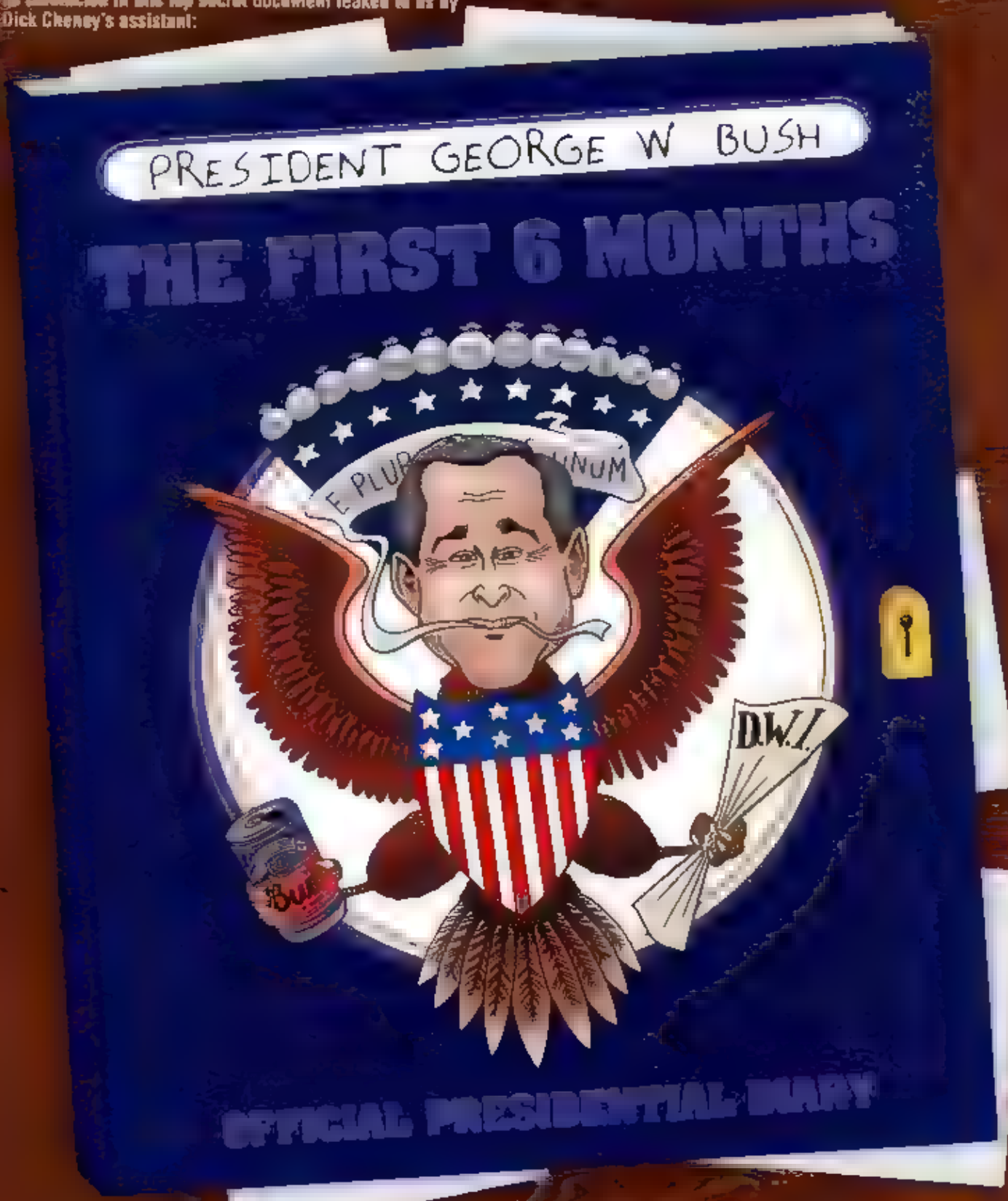


SPY
VS
SPY

ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

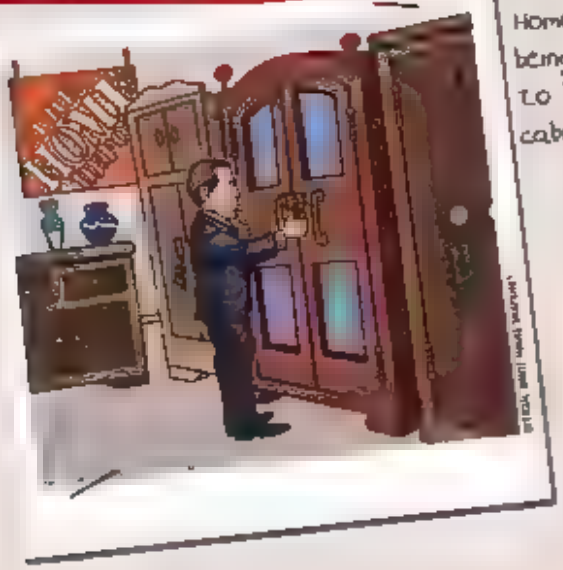
Real
Ad

Historians say that whoever is elected President of the United States invariably "grows in office." We're pretty sure these historians do not mean this literally or else Abraham Lincoln, who was well over six feet on the day he was inaugurated would have "grown" to freakish heights well over eight feet, scaring both children and adults alike. We think historians mean that a President "grows" in maturity and stature. And that appears to be the case with the current occupant of the White House, George W. Bush. Events have suddenly propelled him into becoming a potentially strong and decisive leader, which is a delightful surprise given his rather shaky start. Consider, if you will, some of the "highlights" of his first few months in office, as chronicled in this top secret document leaked to us by Dick Cheney's assistant:



ARTIST: RICH

JANUARY



22-Spent the day aimlessly roaming Home Depot, after being told I needed to "select a new cabinet"

24-Forced out the Democratic contributors still squatting in the Lincoln Bedroom

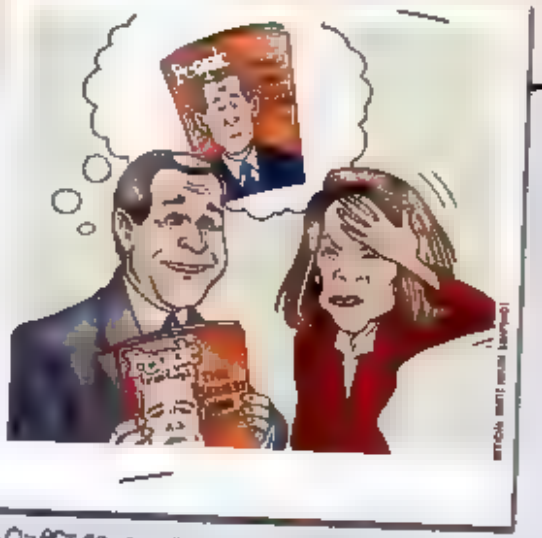
28-With the help of the First Lady, pushed beds in Presidential bedroom back together

30-Excitedly noticed that the layout of the Oval Office is perfect for a giant slot car racetrack!

FEBRUARY

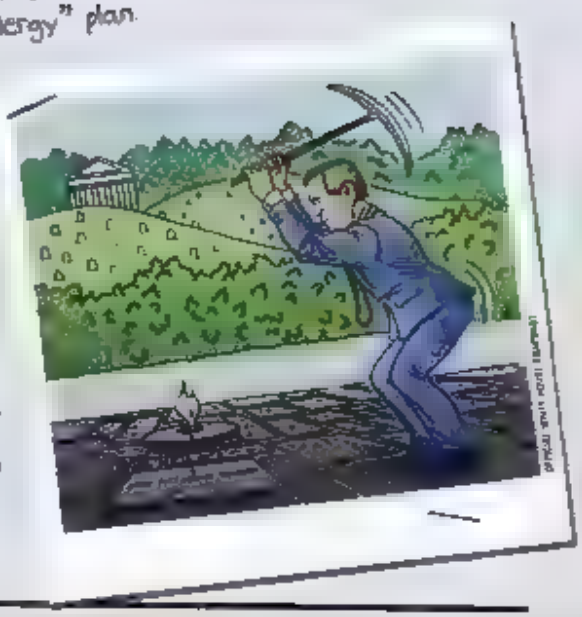
6-Removed Roger Clinton from the White House basement- "Elian-style"

20-After success in stealing Presidency, asked Katherine Harris if she could also get me named People Magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive"



21-Met with Charlton Heston, listened to his "arm the clergy" plan

27-With energy crisis looming, noticed that Kennedy's eternal flame at Arlington National Cemetery always has plenty of fuel-pushed for exploratory drilling



3-During press conference regarding downed spy plane, admitted that it was hard to stay mad at China when Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon was such a kick-ass movie!

8-Decided the congressional budget talks were fruitless - vowed to concentrate all future efforts on reuniting The Spice Girls

MARCH

21-At strategy meeting following the Chinese spy plane incident, pointed out that future incidents could be avoided if we developed invisible planes, like Wonder Woman's

25-Put pressure on the Franklin Mint to finally get that Conway Twitty commemorative coin made

APRIL

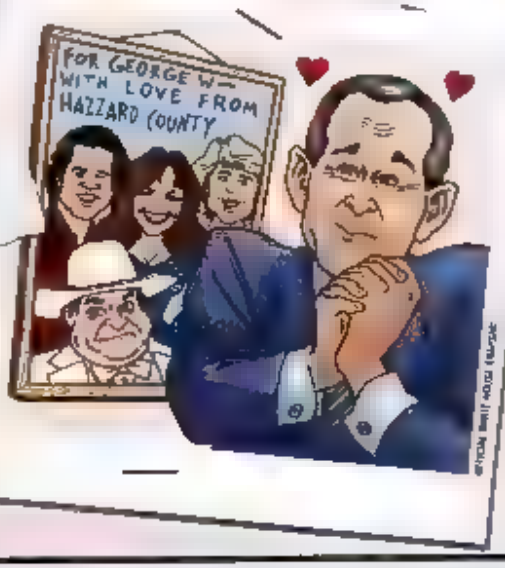
6-Didn't reach home plate when throwing out first pitch at a Brewers game- Milwaukee scouts express interest anyway

11-Announced plans to pick up where Pop left off-pledged to reunite North and South Germany

TV GUIDE

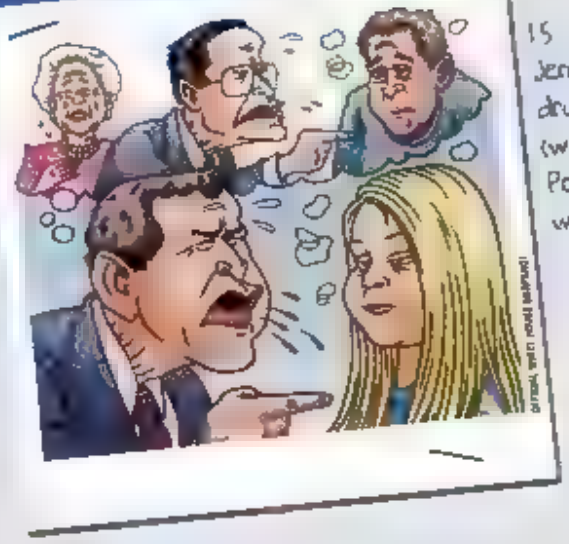
April Top Picks

- **All month:** Dukes Of Hazzard Marathon



22-Watched complete Dukes of Hazzard Marathon on TNN

MAY



15 Scolded daughters Jenna for being a drunken embarrassment (was able to remember Pop's old speech word-for word)

18-Had FBI perform a background check on myself to see if maybe they could help me remember anything I did in the '80s

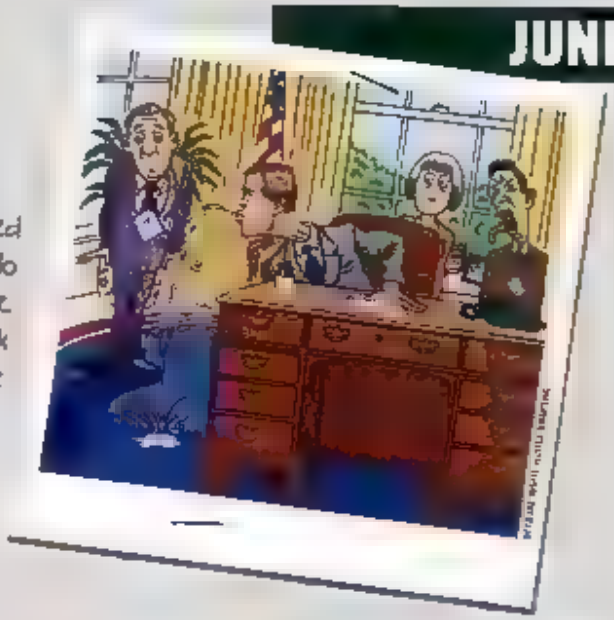
22-Met the governor of so-called "West" Virginia. Double-checked the Atlas on that one

24-Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords declared himself an independent, giving the Democrats control of the Senate - I quickly packed my bags for Canada, figuring the jig was up

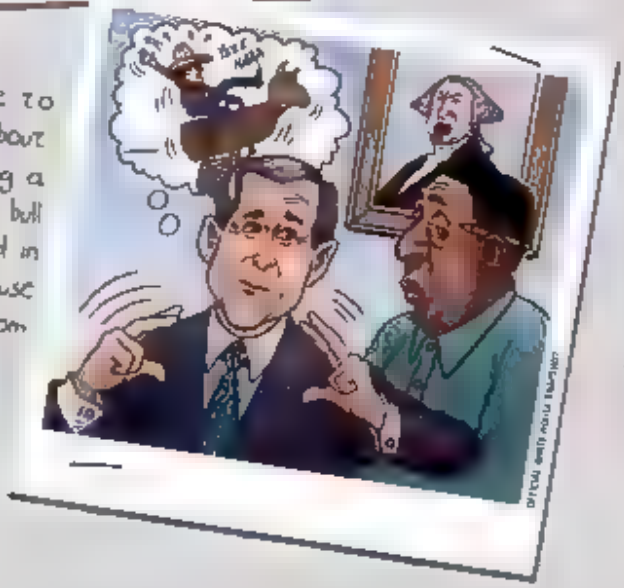
JUNE

6-Enacted a pay raise for the military, gaining their support just in case I can't use the Supreme Court to give me the 2004 election and have to use military force!

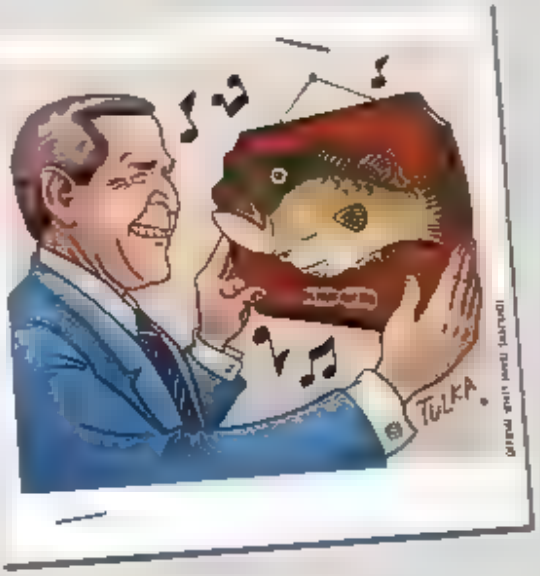
13-Commanded staff to do something about the shameful lack of spittoons in the White House



23-Spoke to contractor about getting a mechanical bull installed in White House Situation Room



29-Finally got the singing fish hung just right in the visiting dignitaries' dining room



RAGE AGAINST THE CASH MACHINE DEPT.

It's a story you read about every day. People being held up as they exit an ATM. After lots of bad publicity about the rise in ATM crime, banks leaped into action in order to help protect their customers by spending a few bucks on warning signs! As a public service, here, for free, is MAD's...

ARTIST: TOM BUNK
WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

ATM SAFETY RULES THAT BANKS SHOULD POST

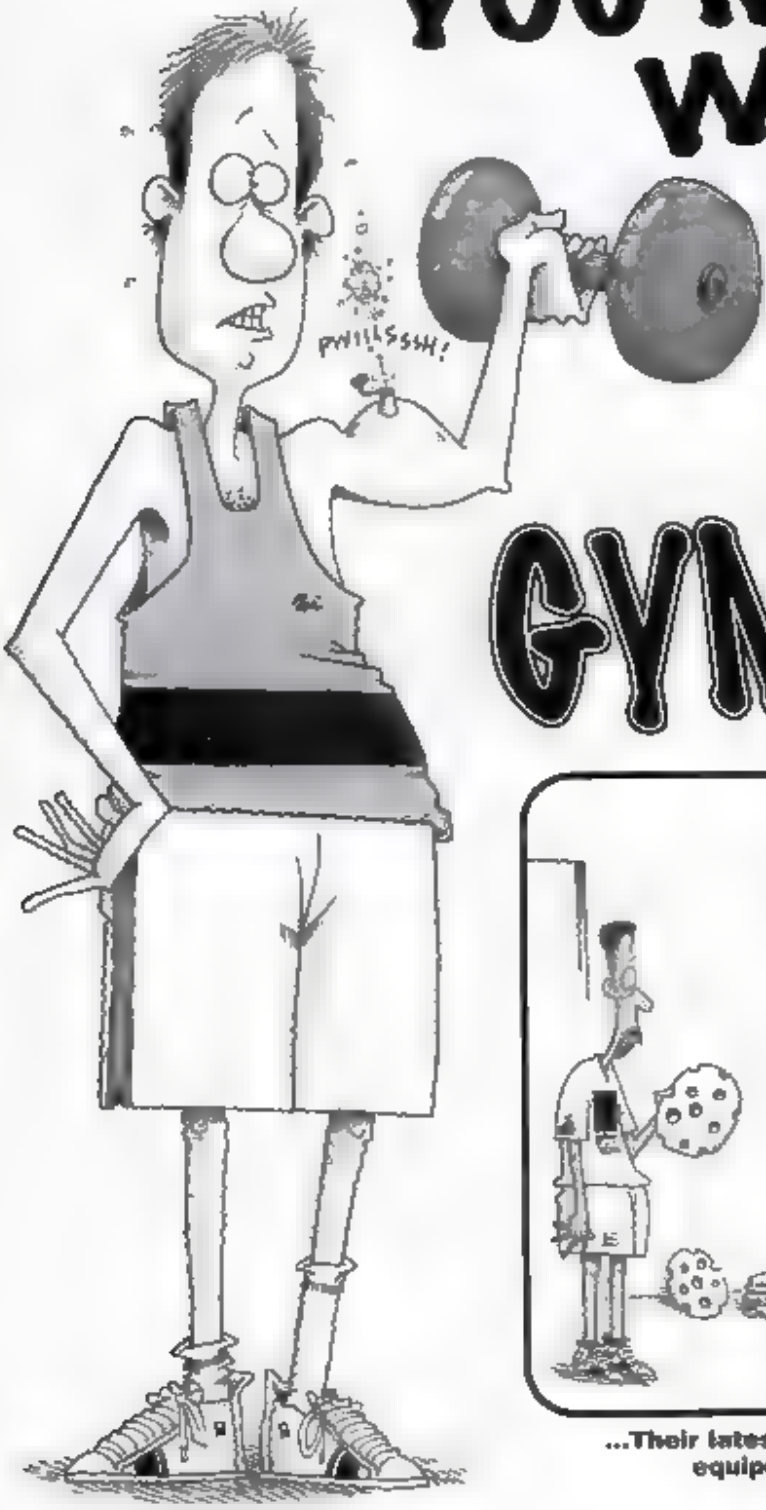
1. Only use the ATM when plenty of people are around, like during regular banking hours. For total safety, never use an ATM during off hours, especially nights, weekends or holidays.
2. Do not hold the ATM door open for a person you do not know, especially if they are wearing a ski mask and it's the middle of summer.
3. Never withdraw more money than you can afford to have a mugger steal from you as you leave the ATM.
4. Protect your ATM card the way you would protect cash, even though we send out millions of them every day via cheap, bulk rate mail — making them an easy target for any nickel and dime thief to steal.
5. Never share your PIN number with the person who is mercilessly beating you inside the ATM.
6. Do not count your money openly. Instead, choose a dark corner of the ATM area to do that.
7. Above all, avoid dark corners of the ATM area!
8. Use the ATM phone to report any suspicious looking individuals. Be warned, however, that for tying up an ATM, you will be physically assaulted by the line of customers waiting behind you much worse than by any suspicious looking individual!
9. Before using the ATM phone to report a security incident, make sure the person reaching into your pants is in fact a thief and not just one of our bank personnel attempting to cop a cheap feel.
10. To avoid a public berating and possible physical altercation, we recommend that you tip any homeless vagrant who opens the ATM door for you 15% of your total withdrawal.
11. For ultimate banking security, we strongly suggest you avoid ATMs, carry no cash and charge all of your purchases on one of our convenient credit cards.*

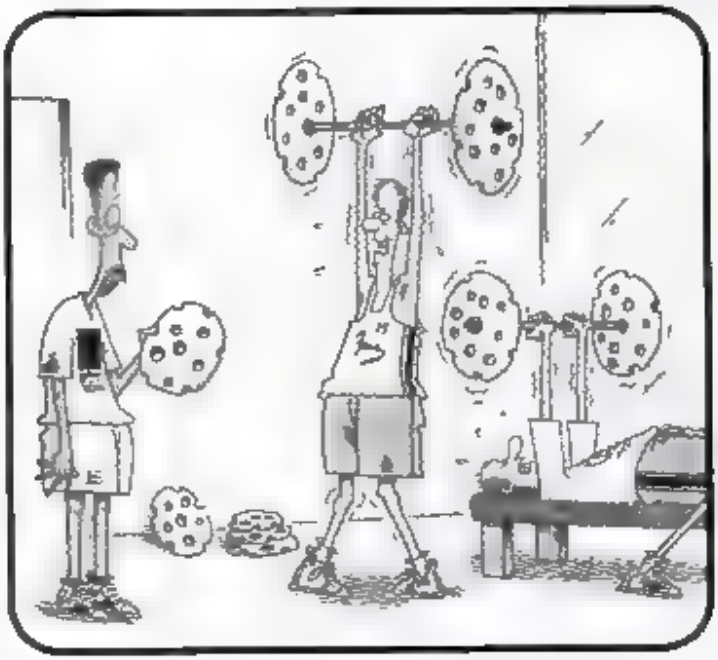
*$75 annual membership fee applies. Current Annual Percentage Rate 29%, calculated hourly.

Real
Ad

With all of the stresses in daily life it s important to have a place to unwind and work the worries and anxieties out of your system For many Americans that place is their local bar they believe there s nothing a good happy hour can't fix! But other Americans want weight training aerobic conditioning and body shaping along with their stress reduction For them, there's the gym While any dark smoky room with stools and bowls of peanuts can pass for a bar a health facility without the latest state-of-the-art fitness equipment is, shall we say less than Gym Dandy So, consider the spa *you* go to, because

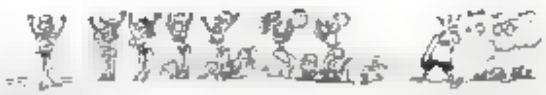
YOU MAY WANT TO RE-THINK YOUR GYM CHOICE IF...

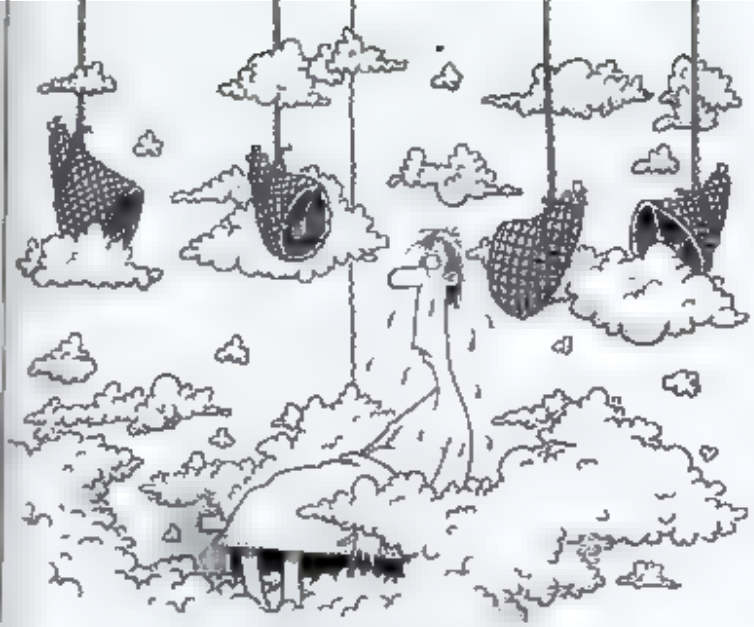




...Their latest innovation in body building equipment — wiffle weights

ARTIST AND WRITER
JOHN CALDWELL



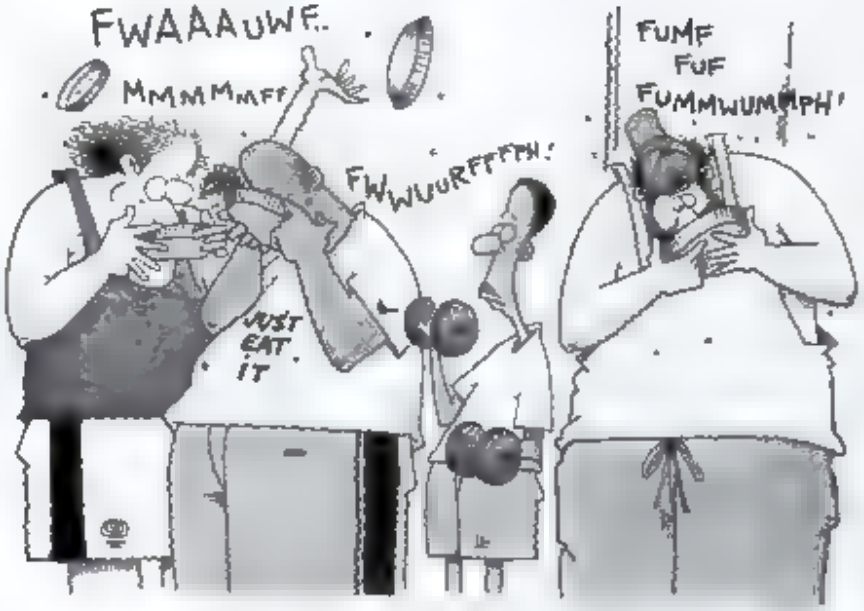


...The so-called "steam room" is strewn with hanging hams

...A dearth of real equipment translates to a 40-minute wait for the medicine ball

...A sign by the treadmill reads, "as seen on MTV's *Jackass*"

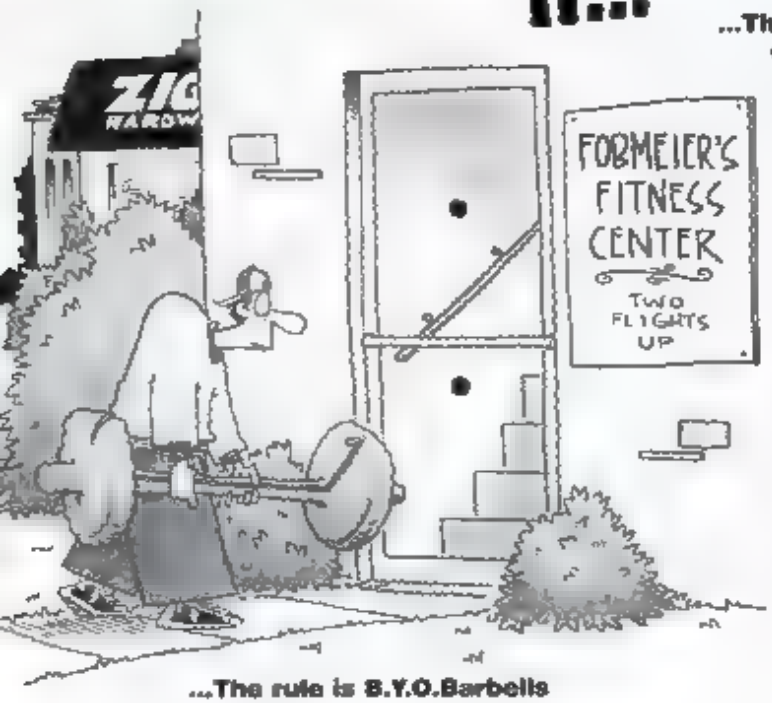
...A typical 45-minute Tae Bo session includes at least three smoke breaks



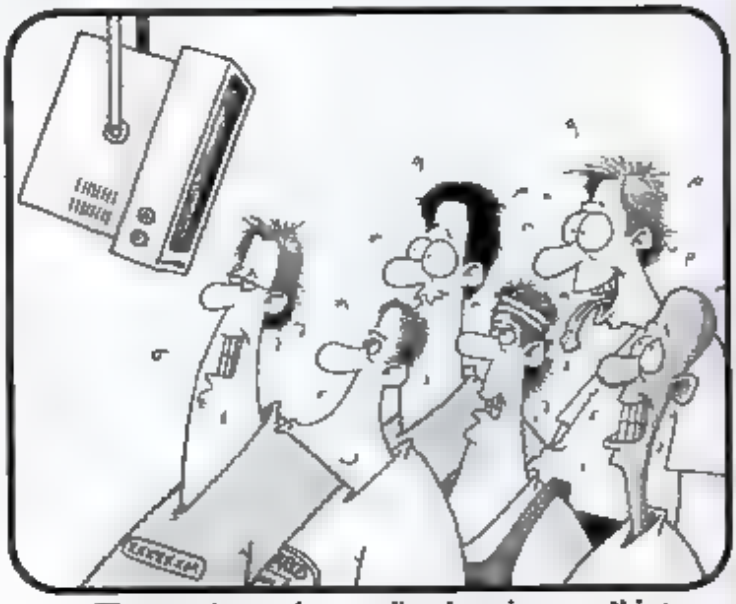
...You're the only one in the place NOT training for a pie-eating contest

YOU MAY WANT TO RE-THINK YOUR GYM CHOICE IF...

...The "stairmaster" class meets at the foot of a mall's down escalator and runs from 10 A.M. until security arrives



...The rule is B.Y.O.Barbells



...The most popular cardio class is something called "Sweatin' to Pam and Tommy Lee"

...The masseuse has a pimp

...AT THE KEYPAD HERE, YOU HAVE MORE THAN TWELVE MEGS OF QUASI-RESISTANCE. THAT, PLUS FIVE GIGS OF TORQUE, TRANSLATES TO A PER CALORIE BREAKDOWN OF 8.6049% FACTORING IN THE ADVANCED PULSE RATE!
HOW COOL IS THAT?!

...You strongly suspect your personal trainer was hired more for his expertise with the high-tech equipment than for his actual fitness skills

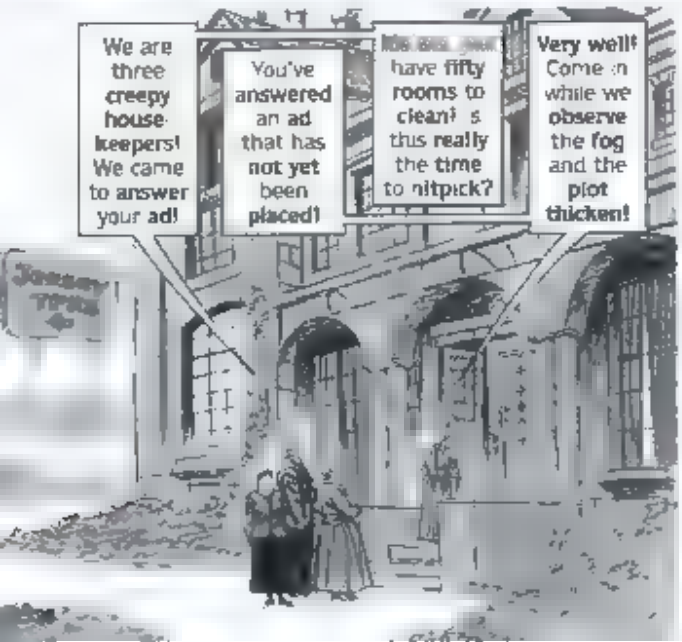
Real
Ad

GET AN AFTERLIFE! DEPT

Want to see a feel-good movie with shiny, happy characters and an uplifting storyline that will have you leaving the theater in high spirits, happy to be alive, with a smile on your face and a song in your heart? Then stay away from...

THE

I'm Ice, a tightly-wound mother of two! I live in an isolated mansion on the British island of Jersey! My husband's missing in action in the war! I live with my two sickly kids! We are engulfed in dense fog! There are no phones, no electricity, no radio, and because this is the 1940s, no TV! As you can see from my warm, loving sneer, I've never been happier!
She's also never been crazier! I'm Antsy! My brother and I suffer from a rare disease! We're not allowed to be exposed to light or we shall blister and possibly die! Trust me, it's worse than acne! We live in a world of kerosene lamps and shadows! It's creepy, and incredibly dull! We're not alone in this house! I think there's another family living here! Obviously, it's not a family of clever screenwriters!
I am Nickelby! I am scared out of my wits! I am scared of my sister, scared of my Mum of ghosts, even of this opening splash page! I am pasty, cadaverous and sickly! I am like a pre-pubescent Dracula without Dracula's aliveness! I live indoors! I fear this is going to make dating difficult unless I get emotionally involved with a drape! I am not a happy camper! I'm thinking about suicide! I may run outside and throw myself under a sunbeam!


We are three creepy housekeepers! We came to answer your ad!
You've answered an ad that has not yet been placed!
[illegible] have fifty rooms to clean? Is this really the time to nitpick?
Very well! Come in while we observe the fog and the plot thicken!

My children are allergic to sunlight! The curtains must be drawn at all times! If any light streams in they could be seriously damaged! This house must be kept in perpetual darkness!
I understand, Ma'am! How very convenient!
Oh, do you mean for their protection?
No, I meant to pass off the absurdity of this story!

UGGHERS

I am Mrs. Mulls, part of a strange trio of housekeepers who have mysteriously walked in out of the fog! Our job, between cooking, cleaning and tending the garden, is to scare your ass off!

I'm Mr. Turtle, the groundskeeper! In school I majored in doddering! I move slower than a garden snail with a double hernia! The only thing moving slower than me is the pace of this film!

I'm Looney and I'm a mute! I can't speak at all! Even so, of the three of us, I'm the one with the most personality!

I'm Chills, the husband! For most of this film I'm missing in action! Actually I've been captured by the Nazis! I was starved, tortured, beaten! Then I escaped! Why haven't I returned home earlier? I had more fun in the war than in this creepy house!

AWOL BAG

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES
WRITER: ANNIE HOGAN

What happens if the children are exposed to the sunlight?

Let's say it's "To Die For"!

That's such a strange expression!

It's from another time - another part of my life!

When exactly was that, Ma'am?

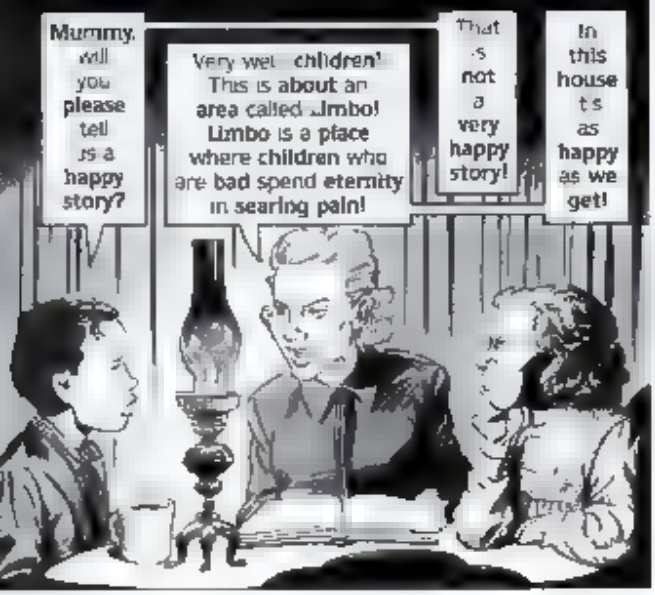
When my films were fun and entertaining!

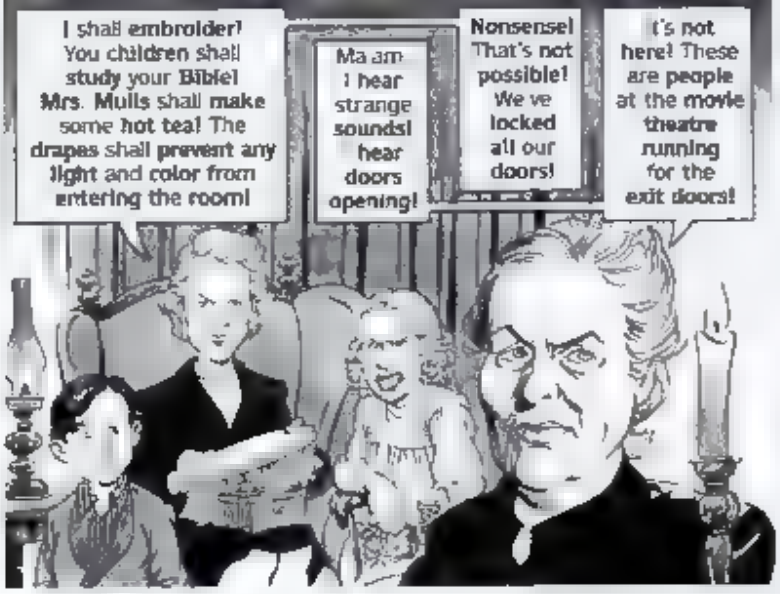
Fine. Ma'am. I'll just keep my "Eyes Wide Shut"!

Let's make sure you understand the rules of the house! The curtains must remain closed at all times and none of the mansion's 50 doors can be opened without the previous door being locked first!

That key ring must weigh seventy pounds!

Yes! And weigh sixty pounds! It's a tough town!

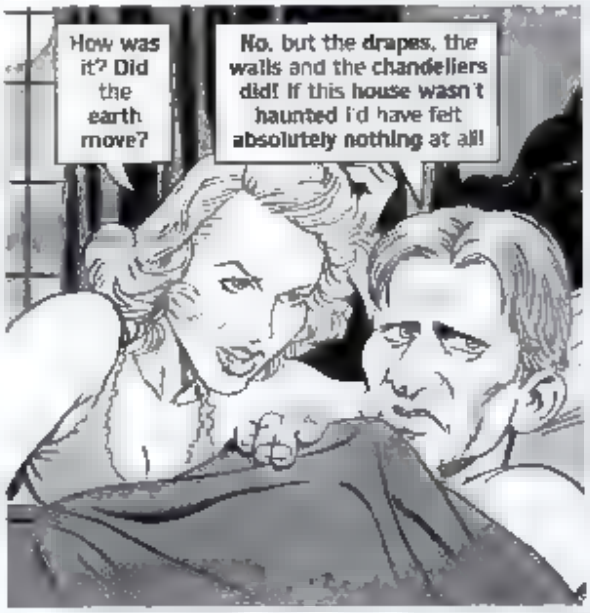

Mummy, will you please tell us a happy story?
Very well children! This is about an area called Limbo! Limbo is a place where children who are bad spend eternity in searing pain!
That is not a very happy story!
In this house it's as happy as we get!


I shall embroider! You children shall study your Bible! Mrs. Mulls shall make some hot tea! The drapes shall prevent any light and color from entering the room!
Ma'am I hear strange sounds! I hear doors opening!
Nonsense! That's not possible! We've locked all our doors!
It's not here! These are people at the movie theatre running for the exit doors!

You servants are a rather odd trio!
If I may say so Ma'am, you're a bit of a lugnut yourself!
It's strange that you're always puttering out here in the constant, dense fog!
They say I have a "gray thumb" Ma'am.
Does anything grow out here in this awful bleakness?
Oh yes! The headstones are coming up quite nicely! As are the plot contrivances!

First creaking doors, whooshing drapes, a piano playing by it self now this shroud-covered furniture
I told you we have visitors!
Now I'm really scared! I believe our house is haunted by bad decorators!

Oh my God! Chills, my husband! You're alive!
Barely! I'm in a daze. I'm shell-shocked, I look weird and creepy!
Hurry, let's get you into the house!
Will you make me better there?
No, but you will blend right in with the creepiness of the children and the servants!

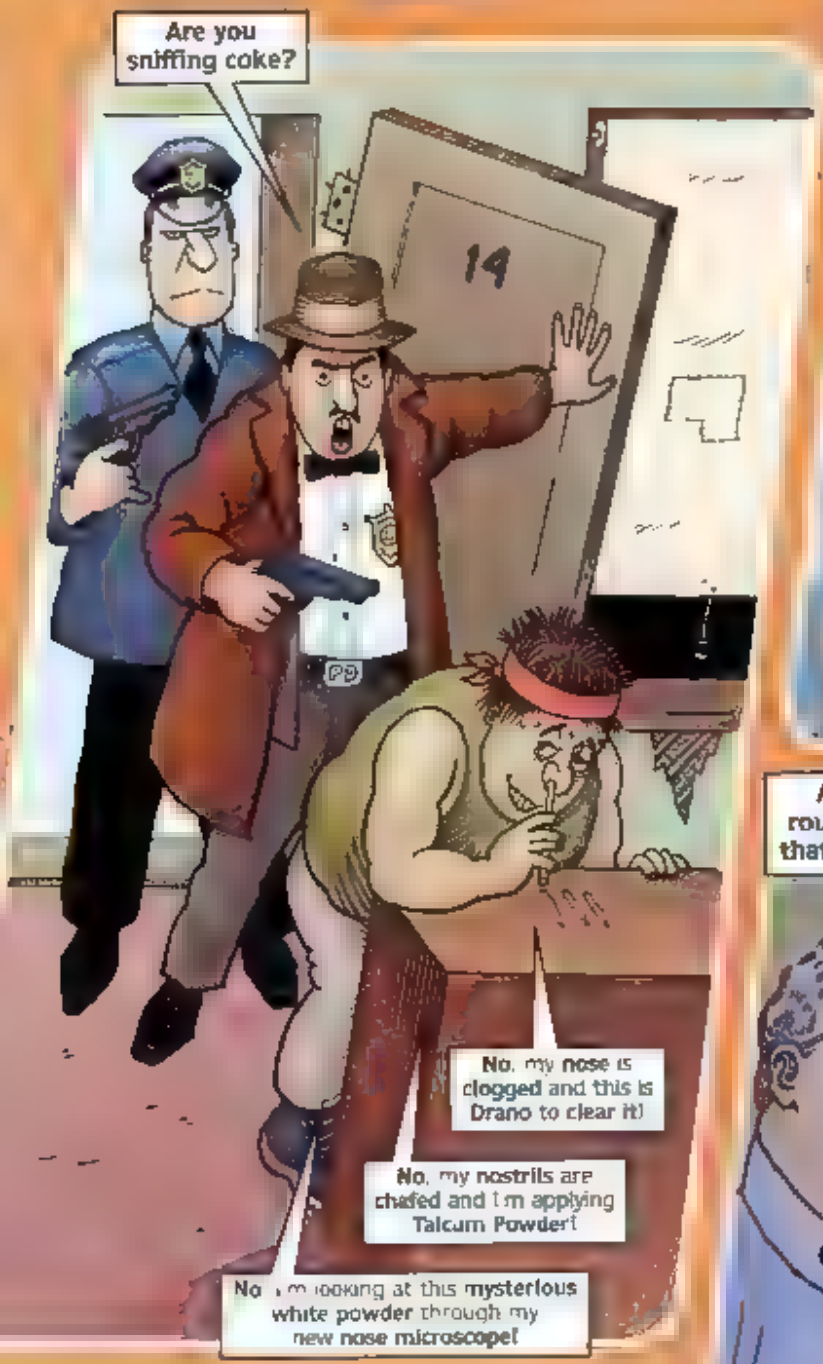

How was it? Did the earth move?
No, but the drapes, the walls and the chandeliers did! If this house wasn't haunted I'd have felt absolutely nothing at all!

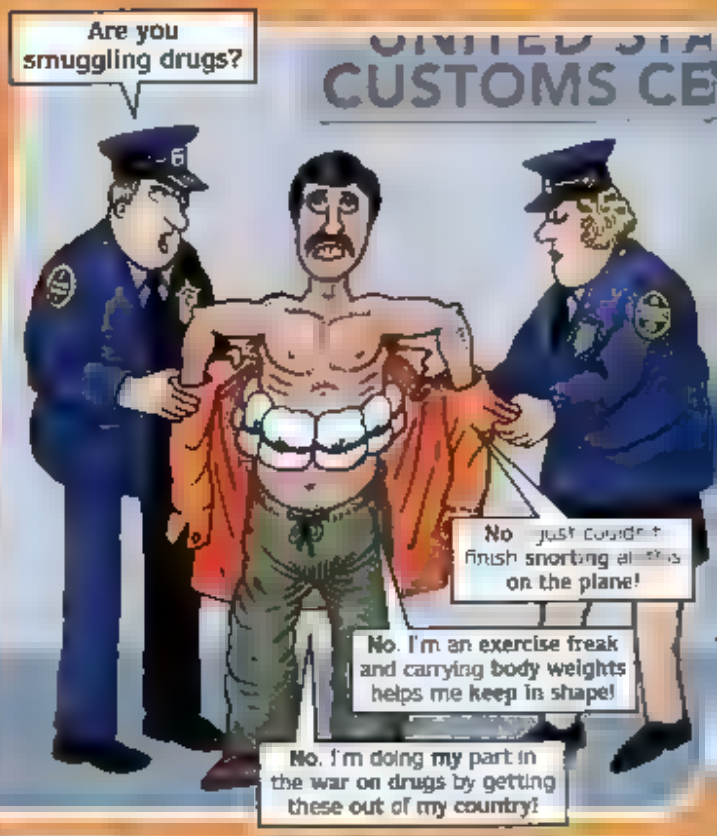
This place is creepy! I'm leaving you like!
Seems every man I meet leaves me!
Another man left you?
It was another time another life! Marrying him was more than Risky Business! It was Mission Impossible! Believe me, he was no Top Gun!
Okay! Okay! I get the picture!
DO NOT DISTURB
Who-who-who-let the drapes out?
It was probably you, Ma'am! All movie long you've been chewing up the scenery something awful!
I dismissed the creepy servants! Then found their gravestones and eerie old photos proving they've been dead for hundreds of years! What's going on?
Don't ask us! We're still wondering why our Daddy had less screen time than the drapes! Do you think maybe because the drapes were more interesting?
...still sense there are intruders in the house!
I'm Flecktor! Your secret playmate!
You're alive!
Which is more than I can say for you people!
We're dead?
Yes! Your mother went ballistic smothered you and your brother and then killed herself! It's the most buzzed about movie ending since *Tomb Raider*!
Nobody's buzzing about the ending of *Tomb Raider*!
Exactly!
Come along, children! We must get out of this insane house! We're going to occupy another residence! One where there's sunshine!
My Lord! These people are more disturbed than the last house!
Talk about warped, depressing people that are candidates for Hell!
Each week let's vote for a different one — and haunt them out of the house!
BIG MOTHER 2

ALL JAFFEE DEPT.

Is this an introduction to an article that needs no introduction? No, it's a postscript to an article that's been badly placed on the page! Here's...

MAD'S SNAPPY TO STUPID


Are you sniffing coke?
14
No, my nose is clogged and this is Drano to clear it!
No, my nostrils are chafed and I'm applying Talcum Powder!
No, I'm looking at this mysterious white powder through my new nose microscope!

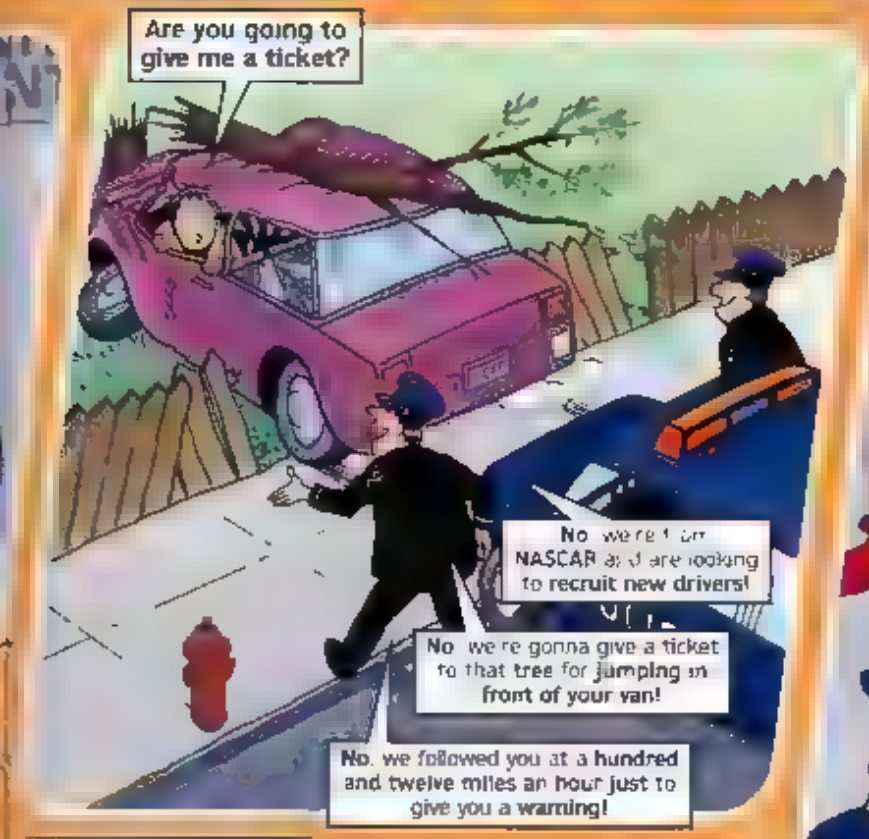

Are you smuggling drugs?
CUSTOMS
No, I just couldn't finish snorting all this on the plane!
No, I'm an exercise freak and carrying body weights helps me keep in shape!
No, I'm doing my part in the war on drugs by getting these out of my country!

Are you roughing up that suspect?
No, I'm trying to cool him off by creating a breeze with my nightstick, but my aim sucks
No, there's a hole in the window screen so I'm swatting flies that land on his head!
No, we're playing "Twenty Questions" and the first one is, "Did you ever see what your brains look like splattered all over the floor?"

ANSWERS QUESTIONS

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EDITION

ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE


Are you going to give me a ticket?
No, we're from NASCAR and are looking to recruit new drivers!
No, we're gonna give a ticket to that tree for jumping in front of your van!
No, we followed you at a hundred and twelve miles an hour just to give you a warning!

Did you stop me just because I'm black?
No, because your parents are...
No, I get lonely sitting behind that speed trap so I stopped you to have a little chat!
Yes, I just wanted to apologize for all the years of race profiling and oppression!

Did we overreact?
No, we just didn't have time to think clearly, what with all the terrible noise our guns were making!
No, that unarmed scoundrel jumped in front of all 41 warning shots we fired!
No, his wallet could have been loaded!

SEND IN YOUR OWN SNAPPY ANSWERS TO THESE SITUATIONS! WE'LL PRINT THE BEST ONES ON THE LETTERS PAGE OF A FUTURE ISSUE!

OFFICIAL COURT NOTICE

ATTENTION

IF YOU WATCHED *THE TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO*: YOU MAY HAVE A CLAIM UNDER A NEW CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE.

United States District Court
of Burbank, California
)
) No. 9276519
The National Broadcasting Company,
Big Dog Productions, ET. AL.

TO: all persons or entities or the legal representative or significant other of any persons or entities who watched three or more episodes of *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* at any time from May 25, 1992 through July 31, 2001 (the "Class Period"). If you watched, you may be entitled to monetary relief under a new class action settlement.

Millions of TV viewers throughout the United States have had their sense of humor damaged, harmed and/or permanently compromised by watching episodes of *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*. To determine if your sense of humor has been damaged, answer each of the following questions:

1. Have you, at any time, considered purchasing a Big Mouth Billy Bass?
2. Do you own a DVD copy of the films *Stop or My Mom Will Shoot, Pootie Tang* or *Dude, Where's My Car*?

If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions, your sense of humor has been damaged, perhaps irreparably.

NBC, who is responsible for the broadcast of this show, has vigorously denied the above claims. Let us not forget that former President Clinton also vigorously denied a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky—a denial repeatedly broadcast on *NBC News*!

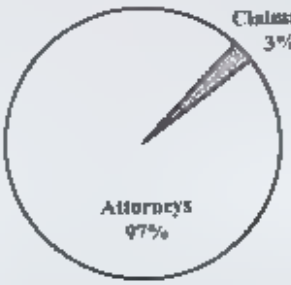
There is a proposed CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT with NBC that gives all viewers of *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* the right to receive humor counseling and reimbursement for the time wasted watching the show.

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

1. The right to receive monetary benefits in the event the settlement receives final judicial approval.
2. The right to demand that the show's producers actually watch — and endure — tapes of EVERY episode of the program from beginning to end.
3. The right to require Jay Leno immediately cease and desist from recycling old jokes he was using at Jimmy Gator's Comedy Hut in 1979.
4. The right to not see on the show (at least occasionally) fawning, butt-kissing interviews with TV, movie or recording stars promoting their recent mediocre series, films or albums. That's what *Entertainment Tonight* is for.

This notice explicitly excludes episodes of *The Tonight Show* that were hosted by Johnny Carson, Jack Paar or Steve Allen, as well as episodes that were guest hosted by Burt Reynolds, Joan Rivers and even Lorne Greene for that matter.

Pending final judicial approval, the settlement claim will be distributed as follows:



This Class Action Suit is being administered by Low, Rotten, Scumbag & Snake, Attorneys-At-Law.

HOW YOUR CLAIM IS VALUED:

Below are estimated per claim amounts before deducting attorney's fees.* Actual per claim amounts depend on the total number of claim participants and the years when the episodes were watched.

Number of Claimants	If you watched episodes before 1995 (Pre O.J. Case)	If you watched episodes after 1998 (Post Monica)
4,000,000	$540.00	$280.00
12,000,000	$260.00	$74.00

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

- Did you ever have the feeling, while watching *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* that you had seen it all before on *Late Show with David Letterman, Not Necessarily the News, Candid Camera* and Art Linkletter's *People Are Funny*?
- Did you ever wish that the commercial break would go on forever?
- Did you ever wonder why only Leno himself and his music director, Kevin Eubanks, find ALL Leno's jokes extremely funny?
- After you watched *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* for a couple of weeks, did you have difficulty grasping other TV programs, other than ones shown on Cartoon Network?
- Have you noticed Jay Leno has a really big chin?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you are most likely eligible to share in the settlement benefits.

HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND SUBMIT A CLAIM:

You can obtain a detailed notice and claim form by contacting Plaintiffs' Legal Counsel in this suit, Low, Rotten, Scumbag & Snake, Attorneys-At-Law at 1-888-SUE-JAY. The Plaintiffs' Legal Counsel also request that you contact them if you are suffering from any unrelated afflictions, including rug burns, a Sterno overdose or are planning on falling down in a shopping mall.

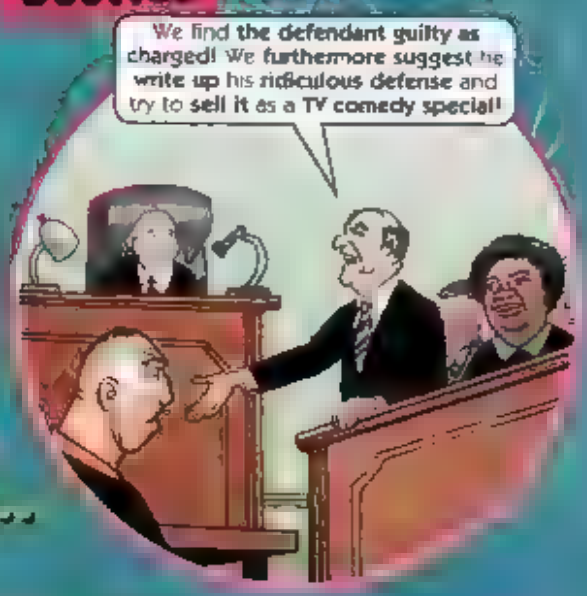
LOW, ROTTEN, SCUMBAG & SNAKE
Attorneys-At-Law

*Attorney's fees, as customary, may be no more than 97% of your total claim amount, though attorney's expenses take up the other 3%.

WRITER: NOAH FEUER

The Lighter Side of...

JUSTICE

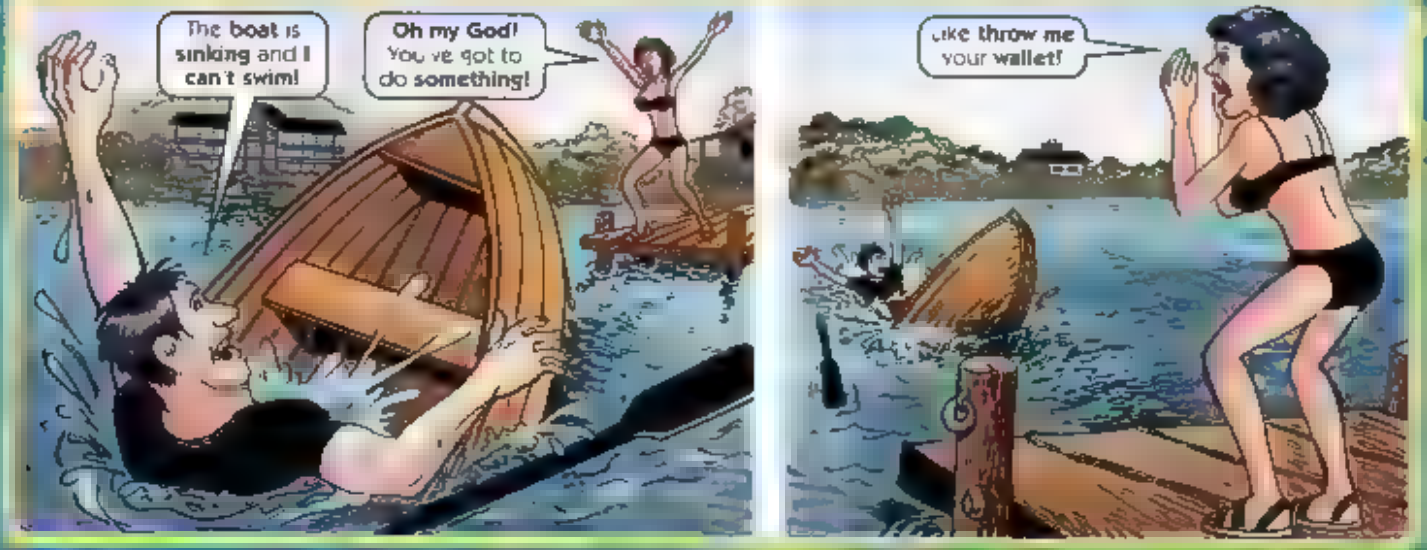

We find the defendant guilty as charged! We furthermore suggest he write up his ridiculous defense and try to sell it as a TV comedy special!

ANCIENT HISTORY

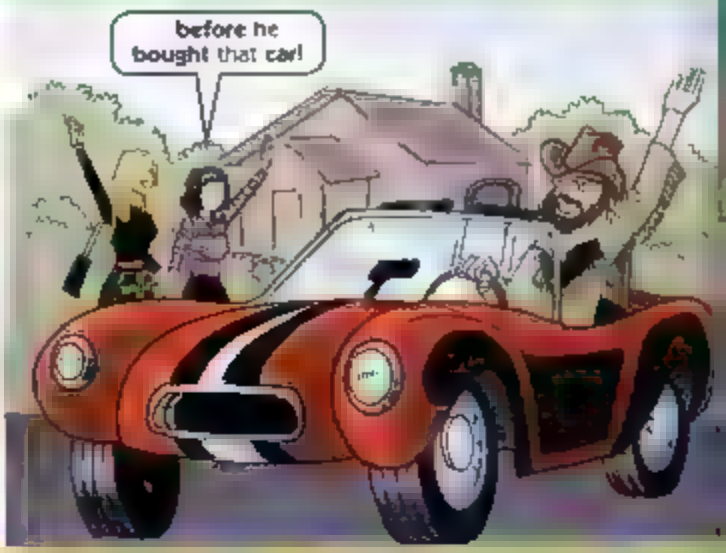
ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE SIM COLORIST: WILDSTORM

Class, this is a copy of Mayan Hieroglyphics that were found in an ancient classroom! Does anyone have an idea about what it says?
I bet that I know Miss Diaz!
I will not talk in class"
I will not talk in class"
I will not talk in class"

EMERGENCIES



SEX APPEAL

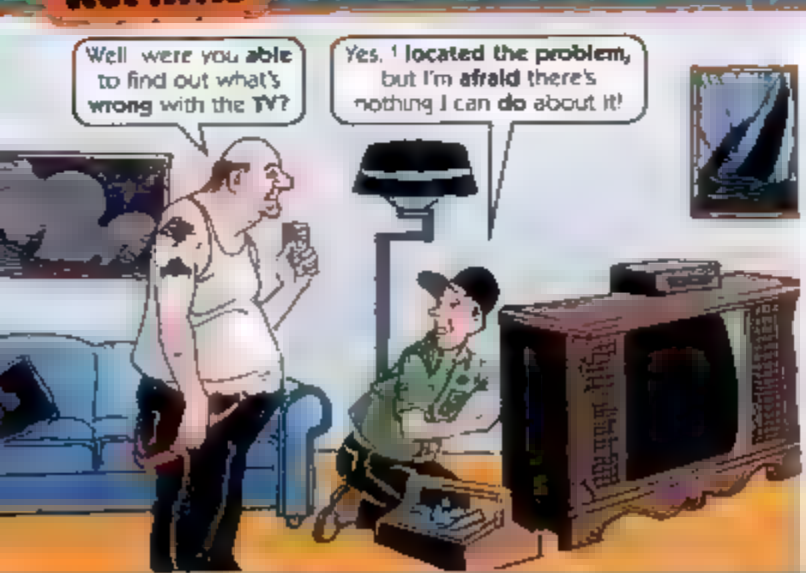


RELATIONSHIPS

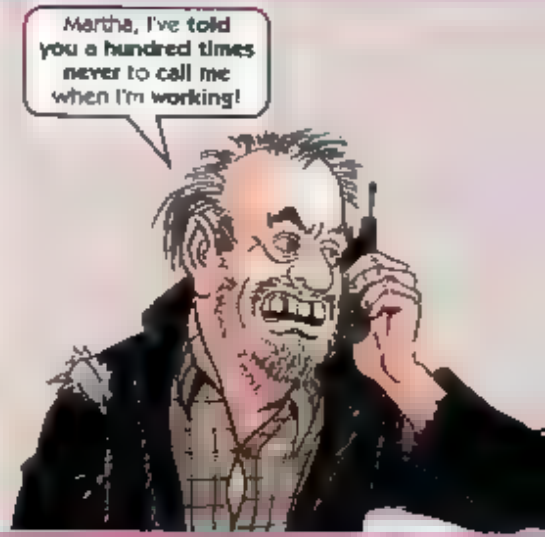
I'm very upset Mark dumped me last night! Now I've got to convince him to take me back!
Why would you want to do that? You told me you were bored with Mark!

ARITHMETIC

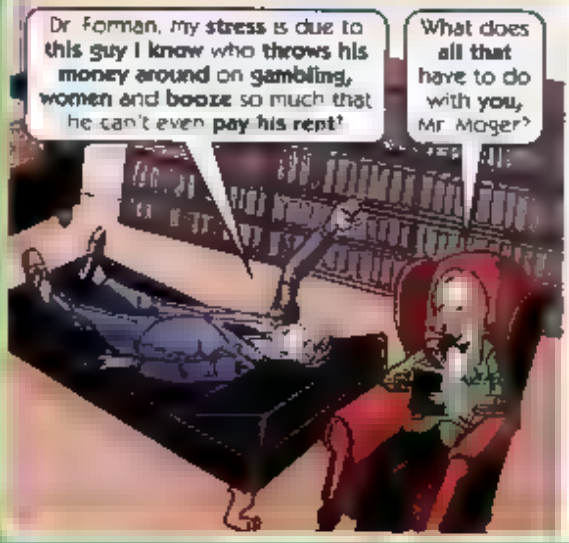
REPAIRS


Well were you able to find out what's wrong with the TV?
Yes, I located the problem, but I'm afraid there's nothing I can do about it!

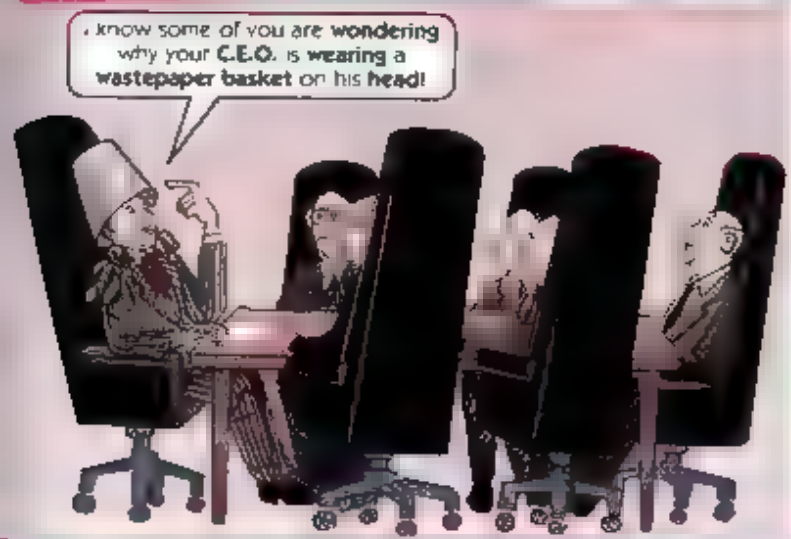
COMMUNICATION

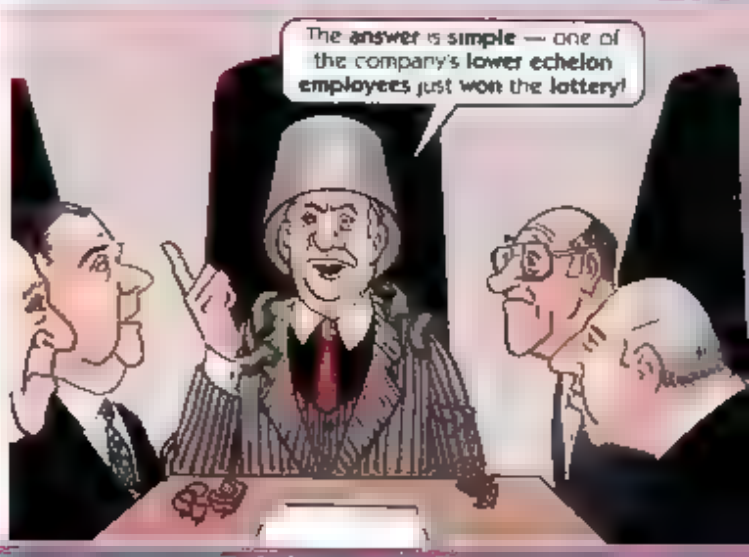


THERAPY


Dr. Forman, my stress is due to this guy I know who throws his money around on gambling, women and booze so much that he can't even pay his rent!
What does all that have to do with you, Mr. Moger?

BUSINESS

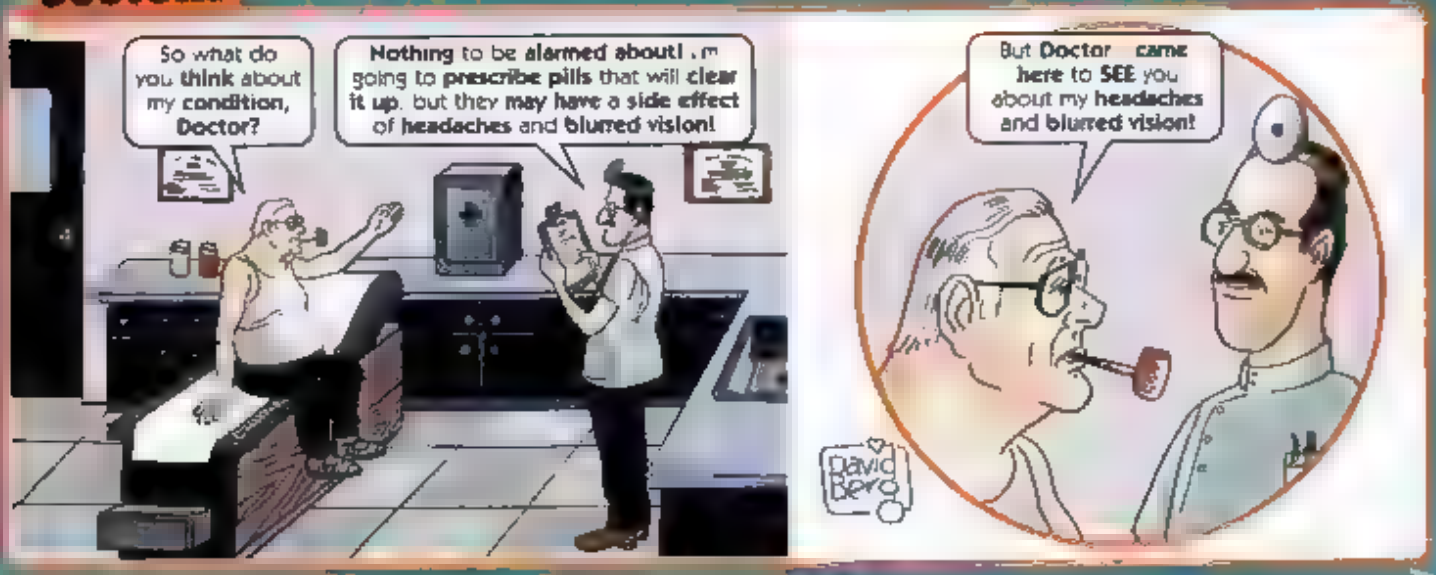




THE OFFICE

PRAYERS

DOCTORS


So what do you think about my condition, Doctor?
Nothing to be alarmed about! I'm going to prescribe pills that will clear it up, but they may have a side effect of headaches and blurred vision!
But Doctor I came here to SEE you about my headaches and blurred vision!
David Bero

Real
Ad

MONROE and...

THAT JIMMY KIMMEL AND TERRY BRADSHAW SUCK!
BOY YOU TOUCH THAT REMOTE AGAIN, I'LL SHOVE IT SO FAR UP YOUR CAN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE CHANNELS BY SWALLOWING
BUT MANDY MOORE IS DANCING IN THE MACY'S
I DON'T CARE IF ROGER MOORE IS DANCING AT THE GAY PRIDE PARADE! THANKSGIVING IS ABOUT TWO THINGS FOOTBALL AND BOOZIN' NOW GO GORUB SOME POTS FOR YOUR MOTHER!
DING-DONG!
CHRIST, THE DOORBELL. WHO THE HELL CAN THAT BE?
HELLO, IS THIS MONROE? THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU YOU WERE A TINY LITTLE FREAKY BABY NOW YOU'RE NOT SO TINY I'M YOUR AUNT TRIXIE AND THIS IS YOUR COUSIN COLLEEN!
HOW ABOUT A [illegible]?
I WOULD'A PREFERRED A BOTTLE OF IRISH WHISKEY
IS THAT? IT IS! "TRIXIE"
THERE HE IS THE MAN WHO PICKED THE WRONG HORSE TO RIDE COME GIVE YOUR OLD TRIXIE A SMOOCH!
WHO'S THE KID? WAIT IT'S NOT
NO RELAX THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, COLLEEN I POPPED HER OUT WHEN I WAS OVERSEAS
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO SHOW MY GRANDDAUGHTER A REAL FAMILY THANKSGIVING
YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S GREAT, POPS GAY, MONROE, GO PLAY WITH COLLEEN. TRIXIE HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU THE TREEHOUSE I BUILT FOR MONROE?
YA KNOW? MAN, DOT YOU MAN, DOT DAUGHT?
OH YEAH! ALL THE TIME
PUSH!
SHAR. SHAR.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
SMERF!
NOT SA BAD FER A YANK
YOU'RE AWESOME! YOU MUST DO THIS A LOT!

ARTIST BILL WRAY

THANKSGIVING

(The Indians weren't the only ones who got screwed.)

I HAVE AN AUNT I HAVE A COUSIN
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID YOU FINALLY GO THROUGH ALL THE MARRIED MEN IN IRELAND? GET OUT OF MY HOUSE
HEY, HEY, HEY! IT'S MY HOUSE TOO, AND I INVITED HER. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.
YOU INVITED HER? GREAT NONSUE. GET ME MY BACARDI
HI, DAD
SO HOW WAS YOUR LITTLE TRIP TO IRELAND?
LITTLE TRIP? I'VE BEEN GONE OVER 12 YEARS
REALLY? WHAT'D YOU BRING ME?
I'M GAME!
YOU ALWAYS WERE!
YOU HAVE THESE MUSH SKATEPARKS IN IRELAND?
WAH
WICKED COOL. CHECK ME OUT ON THE MINI VERT RAMP
SO WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN IN IRELAND?
HUH?
YEAH
WAIT, WHAT ABOUT THE
WOOTIVER
YEAH, BUT WOULDN'T WE HAVE LIKE RETARDED BABIES OR SOMETHING?
TAKE A LOOK AT OUR GENE POOL INSIDE WE'LL BE SPROUTIN' RETARDS NO MATTER
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT SO YOU WANNA MAKE OUT SOME MORE?
COME AND GET IT THE SOONER WE EAT THE SOONER THIS NIGHTMARE IS OVER
GRUNC

WRITER ANTHONY BARNES

MoNrose

I'LL DO THE CARVING WHAT AM I GET YOU FOR?
I'LL BE THE LUCKY SOB THAT GETS HER HOME
SUGAR
MMM! I'M GONNA PUKE IF YOU STUFF ANY MORE IF YOU DON'T CUT THIS CRAP OUT
YOU DID!
AT LEAST I KNOW HOW TO COOK SOMETHING OTHER THAN METHAMPHETAMINE
I'M THANKFUL FOR MEETING MY NEW COUSIN COLLEEN AND I'D ALSO LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE'RE GOING STEADY
GOIN WHAT?
WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO STEADY OUT! YOU TWO ARE BLOOD RELATIVES
UNLIKE GAY TRIXIE AND I WHO ARE ONLY "TECHNICALLY" RELATED AS BROTHER-IN-LAW AND SISTER-IN-LAW!
"TECHNICALLY..." I HEAR THAT!
I'LL GO NEXT I'M THANKFUL THAT TRIXIE THIS MEAL IS OVER MY SHANK AND SISTER WILL BE HEADING BACK TO IRELAND!
OH, THAT'S THE OTHER THING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU WHEN YOUR SISTER WROTE ME TO SAY SHE WAS MOVING BACK STATESIDE I INVITED HER TO STAY 'TIL THEY GET SETTLED AND THE MONEY TURNS
YOU WHAT?!
YEAH, I'M TIRED OF YOU TWO FIGHTING ALL THE TIME WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MY TWO [illegible] NOTHING MORE THAN TO GET BLOTTOED TOGETHER AND THEN PICK UP [illegible]
YEAH, WHO'S THE DOOR
YOU KNOW MAYBE HE'S RIGHT WE DID HAVE SOME GOOD TIMES TOGETHER
THINK YOUR HONOR WE COULD [illegible]
YEAH, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE AS HARD AS I FIRST THOUGHT
I'LL GET THE 'LASERMEISTER'
SNOORK!

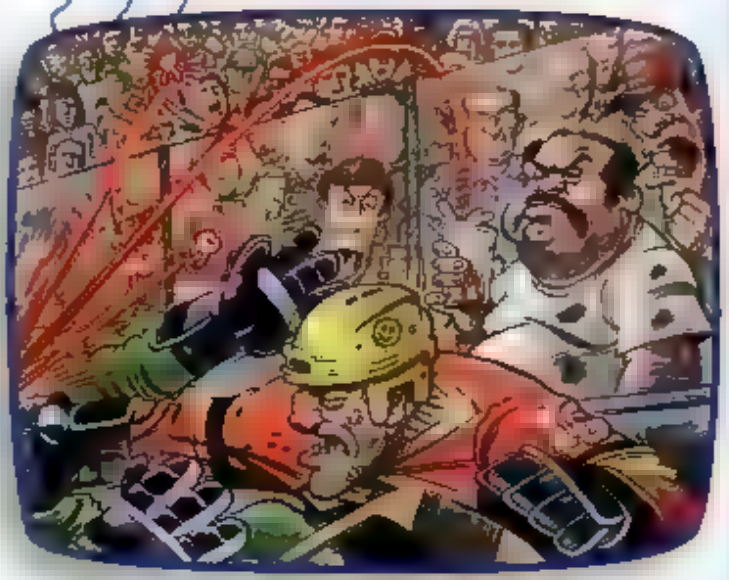
OKAY GIRLS LET'S ALL GIVE THANKS I'LL START I'M THANKFUL FOR ALL THE SOFT FOOD ON THE TABLE MASHED POTATOES, STUFFING AND THE LOT I'LL BE GRUNTING ON THE BOWL LATER, BUT FOR NOW I'M GONNA SUM ME DOWN SOME SOUP
I AM THANKFUL TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MY OLD SISTER IN LAW TIXIE AGAIN
AN' HE DOES WEAR TOUCH
I'D LIKE TO GIVE THANKS!
YOU? WHAT THE HELL DO YOU HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR?
AW LET HIM TALK THIS SHOULD BE GOOD
THIS WILL BE GREAT TIXIE CAN BUNK IN WITH JO, AND COLLEEN CAN SLEEP IN MONROE'S BED
MEW!!
MONROE, YOU GET THE TREEHOUSE
BUT IT'S WINTER!
GO WEAR ONE OF MY OLD SWEATERS
YOU CAN HAVE ONE OF MY OLD GERRY HELMETS, TOO, MONTY!
WELL ANOTHER THANKSGIVING MEAL OVER THANK GOD
AW I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER WE'LL JUST GO STAY AT A MOTEL
SO, AIN'T YA'LL OUT OF HERE?
I BIN THINKIN' MAYBE IT'S AIN'T GOOCH A GOOT IDEAR. YOU'RE KINDA CUTE IN A FREAKY SORT OF WAY. BUT YOUR PUYIN WIT YER BEBBY SKITEBERDS BLOODY TIRING ME JEF!
BUT BUT I JUST LEARNED HOW TO BUST A GLAMMIN OLLIE
AND AIN'T A TURKEY SANDWICH?
I AIN'T ME
DO ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT?
AH, IT'S JUST THE WIND AT THE WINDOW
I MIGHT BE COLD HUNGRY AND DYING OF PNEUMONIA
BUT AT LEAST I GOT TO WALK OUT WITH A GIRL THIS YEAR
BERT W. MURRAY

BANG THE CONUNDRUM SLOWLY DEPT.

The Mysterious TELEVISED

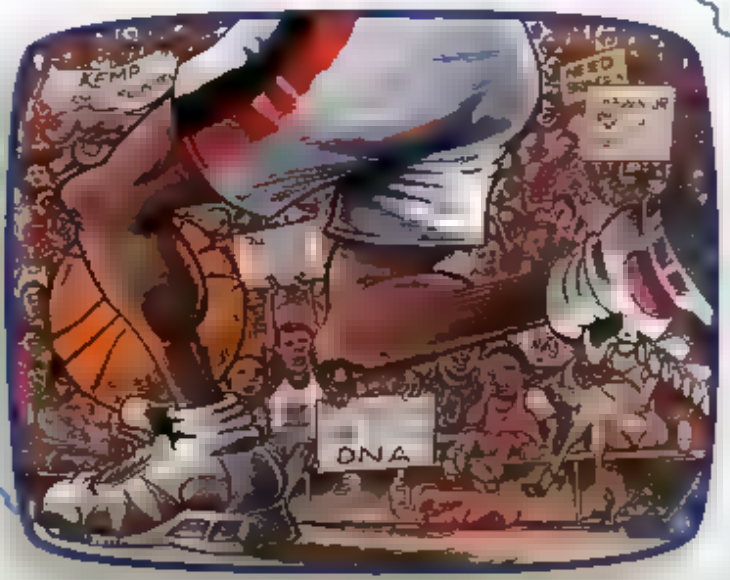
Is Jimmy Hoffa really buried in Giants Stadium? Is a .276 left fielder really worth 4.7 million per season? Since when is Utah the home of Jazz? Yes, there are many unanswered riddles in the world of sports. But there are just as many confounding conundrums about sports broadcasts! So prepare to get turf burn from scratching your head as you ponder ...

Why does NBC think that a viewing audience that's completely ignored every film that Spike Lee, Richard Lewis or Woody Allen has made in the past 10 years will suddenly be fascinated to see the same nerdwads sitting around watching the Knicks?



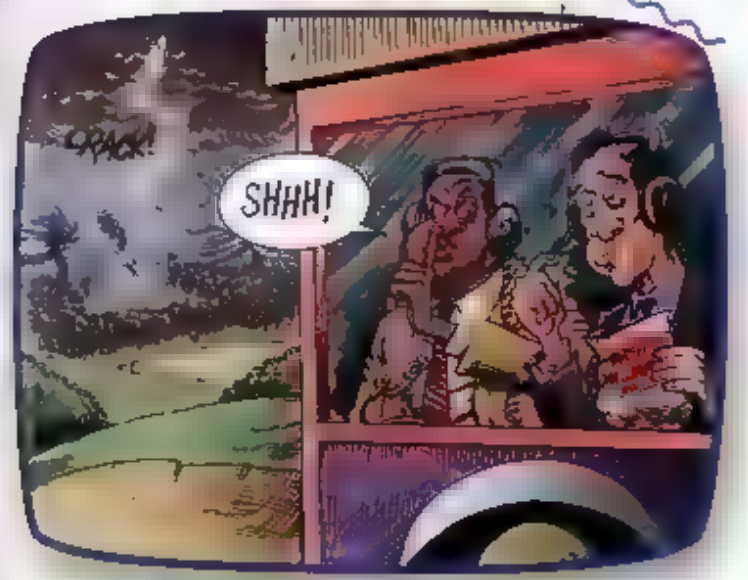
If FOX can electronically light up the hockey puck so home viewers can more easily follow its red glow, why can't they do the same to the players' teeth so we can see where they land during bloody fistfights?

Why do the networks pretend there's even a teensy bit of suspense when they show a ten-minute feature on an Olympic athlete right before showing the tape-delayed race that (sur-PRISE!) the same athlete just so happens to win?

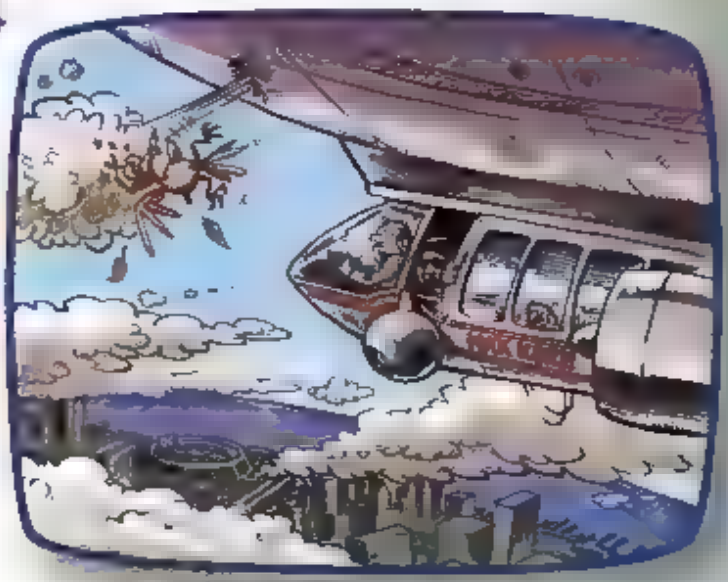


Why are the NBA's television ratings dropping so fast when there's another hundred brand new illegitimate kids popping out every month who'd love to watch their daddies play?

Mysteries of SPORTS

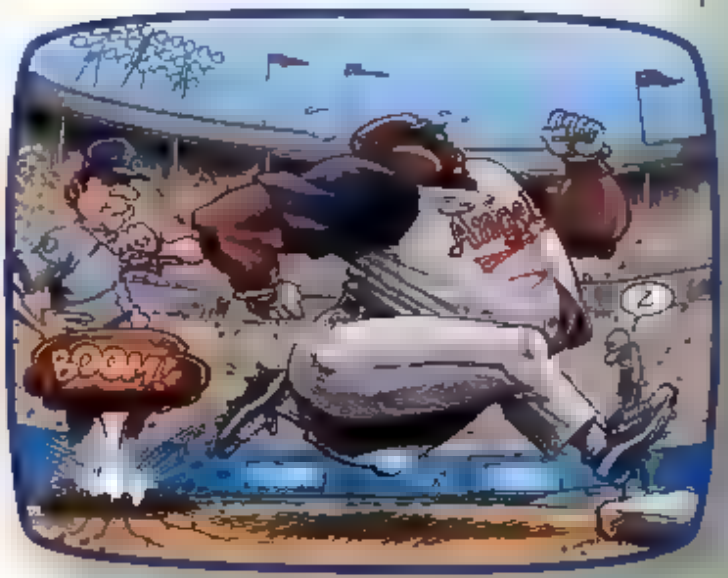


How come the announcers in golf are always whispering, when they're off in a soundproof TV booth nowhere near where the golfers are putting?



Why do announcers spend so much time discussing the "beautiful shots" being brought to us by the Met Life blimp...or the Fuji blimp... or the Budweiser, Goodyear or any other blimp, when every stadium looks pretty much the same from 5,000 feet?

How come networks think showing top TV stars attending championship games is good promotion for their sitcoms, when it only makes us despise them and their shows for taking all the fabulous front row seats that are about a hundred times closer to the action than any of us will ever get?



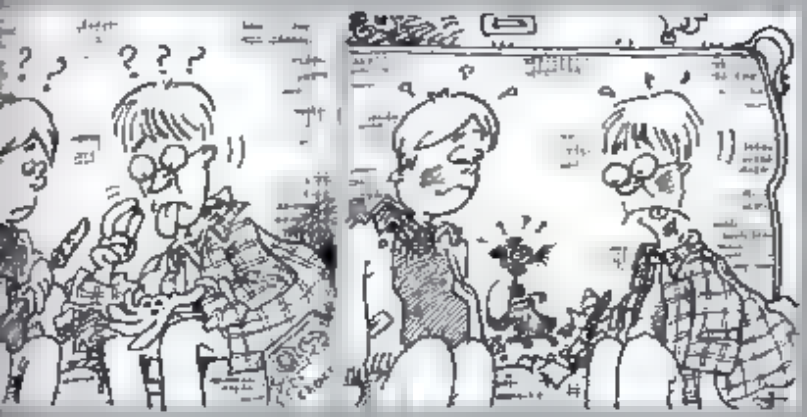
Why do broadcasters keep calling the Kentucky Derby "the most exciting two minutes in sports," when nowadays, a much more likely candidate for that title is watching Anaheim's Mo Vaughn run the bases?

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

a MAD Look at

ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONÉS

Harry Potter



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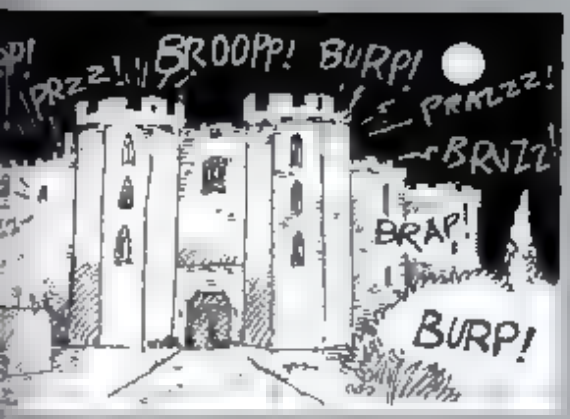
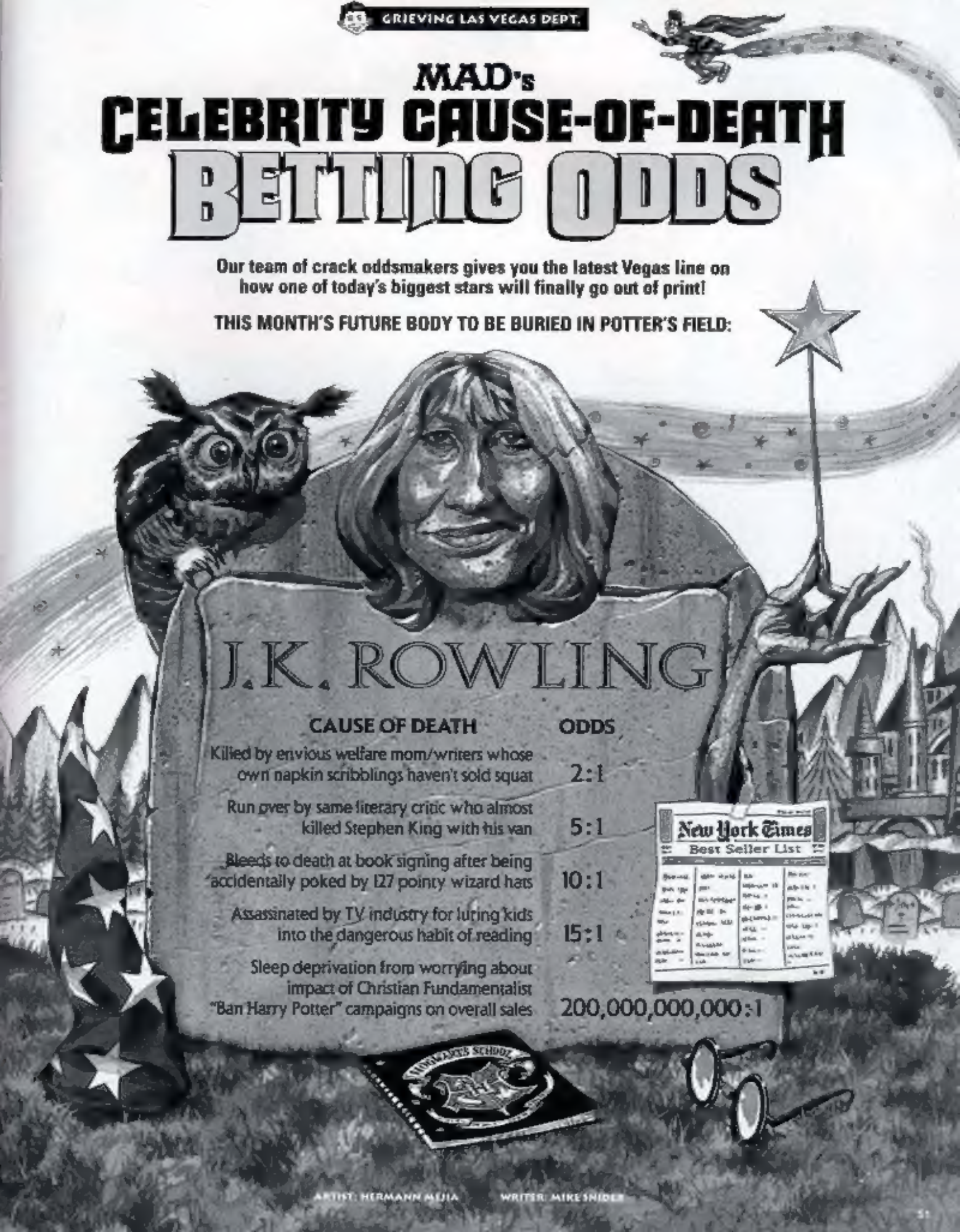

PRZZ!
BROOPP!
BURP!
PRRZZ!
BRUZZ!
BRAP!
BURP!

MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will finally go out of print!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE BODY TO BE BURIED IN POTTER'S FIELD:


J.K. ROWLING
CAUSE OF DEATH
ODDS
Killed by envious welfare mom/writers whose own napkin scribblings haven't sold squat
2:1
Run over by same literary critic who almost killed Stephen King with his van
5:1
Bleeds to death at book signing after being accidentally poked by 127 pointy wizard hats
10:1
Assassinated by TV industry for luring kids into the dangerous habit of reading
15:1
Sleep deprivation from worrying about impact of Christian Fundamentalist "Ban Harry Potter" campaigns on overall sales
200,000,000,000:1
New York Times
Best Seller List
HOGWARTS SCHOOL

ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA WRITER: MIKE SNIDER

WHAT PROFESSIONAL SECTOR IN OUR FALTERING ECONOMY IS ALWAYS GUARANTEED A JOB?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

The economy has slowed and a recession is looming, so unemployment is on the rise. Companies are downsizing and many employees are finding themselves out of a job. One group of trained professionals, however, are not scared by this slowdown a bit. To find out what group this is, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

MILLIONS ARE JOBLESS. POLITICAL REPORTS ARE CATCH-ALLS OF PHONY OPTIMISM. PEOPLE WORRY AND FEEL JOBS MAY BE GONE FOREVER. WHEN FAMILIES ARE LACKING RENT MONEY AND FOOD FOR CHILDREN THEY SOON BREAK DOWN MENTALLY. EACH AND EVERY PERSON'S PLAN MUST ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. WE FACE A FANTASTIC SURGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT THAT COULD GO ON FOR MANY EONS

A ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE B

WHAT PROFESSIONAL SECTOR IN OUR FALTERING ECONOMY IS ALWAYS GUARANTEED A JOB?

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A ◀ B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

MICH-
AEL
JACK-

SON'S
PLASTIC
SURGEONS

A ◀ B